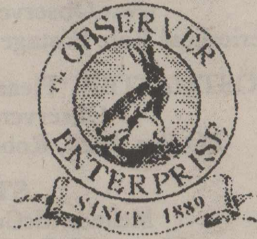


# THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Vol. 130, No. 35

Friday, March 9, 2018

## March 6 Primary Election results announced

Results are in for the March 6, 2018, Primary Election. There were only three contested races for local offices and all local candidates filed for the Republican Primary.

In Coke County, a total of 648 people cast votes in the Republican Primary, with 34 casting votes in the Democrat Primary.

In the election for Coke County Judge, Hal Spain won with 472 votes to Sherry Davidson's 148 votes. There were 17 under votes in this race. Current County Judge Roy Blair is retiring.

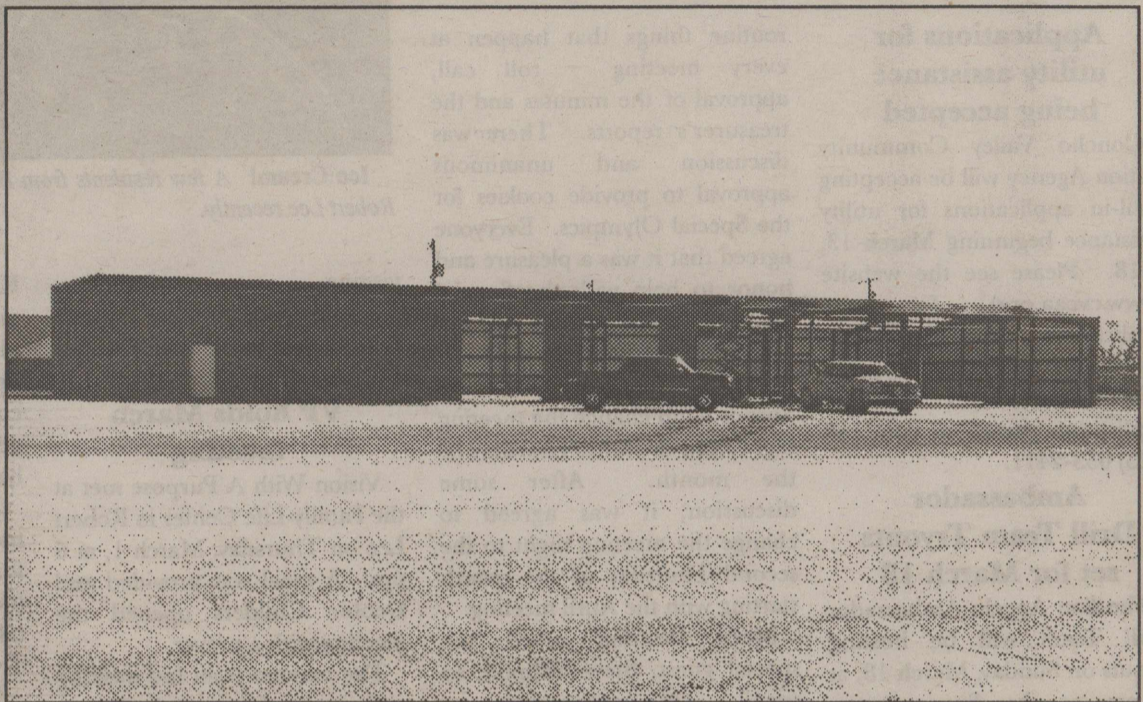
In the election for Justice of the Peace, Russell Johnson had 314 votes to defeat incumbent

Jackie Walker with 302 votes. There were 18 under votes.

In the election for Commissioner, Precinct 2, Paul Williams, Incumbent, received 97 votes, to Henry Chisholm's 60 votes and Robert Feil's 38 votes. There were 3 under votes. Williams was just short of meeting the 50% + 1 threshold, so there will have to be a run-off in this race. The run-off will be held Tuesday, May 22, 2018. Early voting for the run-off will be held from May 14 through May 18, 2018.

In the election of County Treasurer, Therese Emert received 499 votes and 131 under votes.

(Continued on page 8)



**Fire Department!** The Bronte Volunteer Fire Department is making great progress on their new fire station. The new building will provide a centralized location for all of the fire department's trucks and equipment, as well as protection from the elements. Local volunteers have been working hard to get the exterior constructed, but they are going to need help from the community to be able to start work on the interior. These volunteer firefighters spend hundreds of hours of their personal time in service to our community, often at the expense of their families and health. They are the first to rush toward the flames or toward a vehicle accident. Now it is time for us to support them! A community-wide fundraiser is being planned for April 21 with preliminary plans for food, music, an auction, and a "gift" registry. If you would like to be a part of a committee to help with this fundraiser, please contact Susan Williams at [sjanewilliams53@gmail.com](mailto:sjanewilliams53@gmail.com) or by phone at (325) 650-1750.

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Friday, March 9

High School Track -  
 Rasco Memorial Relays, Robert Lee  
 (Bronte, Robert Lee, Blackwell)

### Monday, March 12

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, 6 pm,  
 First Baptist Church, Bronte

Bronte Volunteer Fire Department Meeting,  
 7 pm, Bronte City Hall

Spring Break -  
 Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell, CISD

### Tuesday, March 13

Commissioners Court Meeting, 9 am,  
 County Courthouse, Robert Lee

Spring Break -  
 Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell CISD

### Wednesday, March 14

Spring Break -  
 Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell CISD

### Thursday, March 15

Bronte City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm,  
 Bronte City Hall

Spring Break -  
 Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell CISD

### Friday, March 16

Spring Break -  
 Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell CISD

### Letter to the Editor

[Editor's Note: The Sorosis Club meeting article mentioned in the letter below is on Page 2 of this issue of The Observer/Enterprise.]

If you read the small article about the Sorosis Club meeting this month, you will know that Mr. Steve Salmon came and spoke to our ladies club last week. He gave us some information that I want to share with everyone and then I want to make a plea to you.

Our ambulances - yes, both Bronte and Robert Lee - are run by volunteers. Bronte has approximately 15 volunteers on the east side and Robert Lee has approximately only four volunteers on the west side. These volunteers work, have lives, etc. and are expected to

drop everything when there is a 9-1-1 call. I cannot say anything negative about our volunteers. I truly believe that they do their very best! We joked at the Sorosis club meeting and said it's pretty sad when the ambulance crew can qualify to park in the handicapped parking spaces! The ambulance services cannot keep going as they are.

If (and when) the ambulance services cannot meet the needs of our county, the nursing homes WILL close! The state will come in and remove the residents and close the doors to our nursing homes. This hits me very personally because we have family in the Bronte Health and Rehab Center. I don't want my family to have to move 45 minutes from me! I love the fact that she is only two minutes

away. Also, if the nursing homes close, approximately 100 people will be without jobs! Did you read that?! 100 people in our communities will be jobless. Will they have to move to find work? Who will want to move in without any ambulance service and without any jobs for them?

There is a solution out there. I talked with Mr. Salmon and then conferred with Gayle Sisemore at the appraisal district. If we create an "ESD" (Emergency Servicing District), it would replace the volunteer ambulance and will be a paid ambulance service. I asked how would we pay for this? And how much would it cost? Mr. Salmon said the maximum an ESD can charge is 10 cents per \$100 valuation.

(Continued on page 8)

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## Spring Forward



Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.



**THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE**

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**Applications for utility assistance being accepted**

Concho Valley Community Action Agency will be accepting mail-in applications for utility assistance beginning March 13, 2018. Please see the website (www.cvcaa.org) for the application and required documents needed. For more information or to have an application mailed to you, call (325) 653-2411.

**Ambassador Drill Team Tryouts set for March 18**

The San Angelo Ambassador Drill Team will be hosting tryouts on Sunday, March 18, at 1 pm at the Spur Arena. Tryouts are open to all girls ages 13 - 24. Look at the San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo website at sanangelorodeo.com for specific paperwork that should be brought to tryouts (click on Rodeo and then Ambassadors).

For more information contact Carmen Schwertner at (325) 763-8175.

**Hamburger lunch slated for March 22**

In celebration of the tenth anniversary of the purchase of First National Bank in Bronte, First National Bank of Sterling City will host a free hamburger lunch on Thursday, March 22, at the bank in Bronte.

For more information, call (325) 473-2911.

**Longhorn Golf Club tournament set for March 24**

The Bronte Longhorn Golf Club will host a tournament on Saturday, March 24, beginning at 9 am.

For more information, call (325) 262-5277.

**Robert Lee 'Meet the Candidates' event slated for March 26**

A 'Meet the Candidates' event will be held Monday, March 26, at 6:30 pm. It will be held at the Family Life Center of First United Methodist Church in Robert Lee. This will be your chance to meet and speak with the candidates for Robert Lee Mayor and City Council.

**Sorosis Club February meeting held**

The Sorosis Club met at First Baptist Church for their February meeting on February 15. The club started with the

routine things that happen at every meeting - roll call, approval of the minutes and the treasurer's reports. There was discussion and unanimous approval to provide cookies for the Special Olympics. Everyone agreed that it was a pleasure and honor to help with the Special Olympics. There really was not much other business to tend to.

It was suggested that the Sorosis Club change the meeting night from the third Thursday of the month. After some discussion, it was agreed to change the meeting night to the second Thursday of the month starting with the April meeting.

Mary Percifull asked the special guest, Steve Salmon, to speak. He gave such an interesting and much needed talk about the need for a paid ambulance service for the entire county. The ladies had good questions for Mr. Salmon. He explained that our volunteers are just overwhelmed (and a majority are over 65 years old). Bronte has approximately 15 volunteers and Robert Lee has approximately four volunteers to make all of the runs for the entire county. That's not many volunteers when you think about people working, doctor's appointments, vacations, or just not being available in town to make a run. Mr. Salmon gave quite a bit of information and "food for thought" for the ladies to think about.

Mary Percifull and Jane Cumbie provided some fabulous refreshments. The ladies (and Steve Salmon) enjoyed the refreshments and enjoyed



**Ice Cream!** A few residents from Bronte Health and Rehab Center enjoyed an ice cream dessert at The Pie in Robert Lee recently.

visiting.

There being no other business that needed to be tended to, the club adjourned.

**VP holds March meeting**

Vision With A Purpose met at the Family Life Center in Robert Lee on Thursday, March 1, at 6 pm. A meal was provided and Debbie Childers opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes from last meeting were read and approved. Beverly Burdett gave the Treasurer's Report that was also approved.

Several committee budgets were discussed and members of various committees were discussed and updated. Allyson Crenshaw is the new chair for Small Town Christmas for 2018. Dianne Hefner gave an update on the Beautification Committee meetings. Trade Day is set to be held Saturday, May 5. Everyone in the Robert Lee area is encouraged to participate. This is planned to become an annual event. More information will be provided in the future.

Crystal Stanford provided information on the county playground update. She is still looking for more volunteers to aid in this project. She has also contacted providers of equipment. VP needs to decide where and what is needed first.

Kelly Baker, Allyson Crenshaw and Crystal are working up a plan to be presented. It will be done in phases. Members of the community are encouraged to get involved, especially if you have young children.

Kelly Baker discussed the new membership tiers: \$30 per year for Time/Talent membership (donation of time and/or talents) and \$100 per year for Treasure membership.

Under fundraising we are having two bake sales to be held at Robert Lee State Bank on

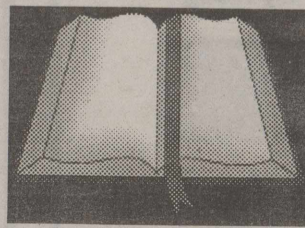
Friday, May 11 and Friday, June 15. The Trade Days is slated to be held Saturday, May 5. Vision with a Purpose is also participating in SAAF (San Angelo Area Foundation) under the name "San Angelo Gives". It's a one day fundraiser (tele-fundraiser), asking contacts/community to donate on this day.

Members voted on putting out a community-wide cookbook. A committee was appointed to pursue this endeavor. Hopefully this project will be finished before Christmas.

**Area Churches**  
**Invite You to Worship**

**Bronte**  
**Bronte Church of Christ**  
 PO Box 346  
 118 S. Jefferson • Bronte  
 Preacher David Lewis  
 Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm  
**Central Baptist Church**  
 324 S. Franklin • Bronte  
 (325) 473-4811  
 Dale Patterson, Pastor  
 Sun. 10 am Sunday School  
 11 am & 5 pm Worship  
**First Baptist Church**  
 424 S. Washington • Bronte  
 (325) 473-2331 • Pastor Lee Bevly  
 Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,  
 10:55 am Worship, 6 pm Bible  
 Study & Worship  
 Wednesday 6 pm RA's & GA's,  
 6:30 pm Youth & Adults  
**First United Methodist Church**  
 Corner of Washington & Holmes  
 Bronte  
 (325) 473-3281  
 Rev. Everette Boyce, Pastor  
 Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship  
**Forgiven Ministries**  
 117 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. Yesu Mulakaleti, Jr., Pastor  
 Sunday Bilingual Mass 8 am  
**4C Cowboy Church**  
 Texas Theater, Downtown Bronte  
 Pastor James Brunson  
 Sunday, 10:30 am

**Coke County**  
**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



**Robert Lee**  
**Bible Baptist Church**  
 PO Box 938 • 9th & Austin  
 Robert Lee, John Fiore, Pastor  
 Sun. 10 am Sunday School,  
 11 am Worship,  
**Emmanuel Pentecostal**  
 PO Box 683 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy  
 Pastor Kevin Millstid 453-2360  
 Sundays 10 am, Wednesdays 7 pm  
**First United Methodist Church**  
 PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne  
 Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417  
 Cyndi Weidner, Pastor  
 Sun. 10 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  
**Southside Church of Christ**  
 PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston  
 Robert Lee (325) 453-2176  
 Ricardo Reyes, Preacher  
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School  
 11 am & 6 pm, Worship  
 Wed. 6 pm, Worship  
**Northside Church of Christ**  
 PO Box 508  
 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. Yesu Mulakaleti, Pastor  
 Saturday Vigil Mass 5 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

**Bronte Body Shop, LLC**

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 and receive an additional 10% with a Life policy."*



VP will present two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors. Seniors will be asked to write essays on their application, along with grade point and community and organization involvement.

Debbie Childers closed the meeting with prayer. The next meeting will be Thursday, April 5 at the Family Life Center at 6 pm. A meal will be served. New and old members are encouraged to attend to make Robert Lee flourish. Helpful hands and lots of ideas are needed.

**WCCHD meeting minutes told**

by Pat Stephens

The Board of Directors of the West Coke County Hospital District met in regular session on February 27, 2018. President Pat Stephens called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and declared a quorum was present. Board members present were Sarah Green, Pat Carwile and Noel Tinkler. Houston McGuire - RLCC Administrator, Roger Alexander - WCCHD Administrator, Chris Martin - Consultant, Janie Munoz - BOM, and Becca McGuire - DON, were also present at the meeting. The invocation was given by Pat Stephens. There were no visitors. The board minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Beverly Burdett was appointed by the board to fill the vacancy left by Patsy Cason's resignation. She was sworn in by Justice of the Peace, Jackie Walker, and began her duties immediately. The board welcomes Beverly into this position and is looking forward to working with her.

There are 28 residents in the Care Center as of the meeting date. The facility is currently fully staffed.

Accounts Receivable were discussed and Janie says her new schedule is working well.

The Board will review copies of the audit at the next meeting. Roger gave the Board an update on the financials. They were accepted as stated.

There is nothing major occurring with building maintenance at present, just day to day repairs.

Reports were given and discussed concerning QIPP (state sponsored quality improvement program), and also the DSO. The next result for the QIPP program will be this month.

The bank signature cards will be updated this month.

Future agenda items were discussed and the next regular Board meeting will be March 27, 2018. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

Taking a look at the activities calendar for March, the church service at the facility had a good attendance on the March 4, followed by a week of regular daily activities. On March 9 and on March 23 at 3:30 pm, Brandon Broadbent will be having a Bible study in the dining room. The Sing-Along(s) will be on the March and

March 26 at 3:30 pm. There will be a St. Patrick's Day party at 6:30 pm on March 16. The Singing Group "Because He Lives" will be entertaining. The Baptist Co-ed class will sponsor the monthly birthday party on March 20, which happens to be the first day of spring. The birthday honorees this month are Gary Holloway, Billie Dunn, Tommy Hood, Edith Stewart, and Jack Clement. Happy birthday to all! March 30 will find the Easter Bunny hiding eggs for a big Easter Egg Hunt at 3 pm that afternoon, and that will round out the month.

Don't forget to set your clocks to spring forward an hour Saturday night, March 11, and have a very blessed Easter on April 1!

**It CAN Be Done**

by James M. Decker

"It CAN be done." These words were on a sign kept on the desk of one of Stamford's most accomplished natives, the late Robert Strauss. Raised in Stamford, Strauss went on to found a large international law firm and serve as, among other things, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, trade representative to the President's Cabinet, Middle East peace negotiator, last U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, first Ambassador to the Russian Federation, and an adviser to presidents of both parties for over five decades.

Strauss once told a journalist that the sign on his desk captured his life philosophy: "I really believe things can be done. You have to be optimistic that you can get things done, and usually you can." Robert Strauss passed away in 2014. His achievements exemplify his life philosophy, rising from humble beginnings as the son of immigrant merchants in Stamford, Texas, to a legacy as one of the most influential men in American politics of the post-WWII era. Nothing about his roots limited his vision for his life. He believed it could be done, and so it was. Strauss is an example to rural youth, that they can achieve anything, no matter where they come from.

His philosophy is an inspiration for what we can do in our rural communities as well.



**Blowout!** Local emergency services responded to this accident scene last week near the intersection of Highway 277 and Highway 70, north of Bronte. The rollover was caused by a blown out tire on this AT&T truck.

I've written in the past about the challenges that rural communities face. Global economic forces are not lined up to support rural communities. We struggle to provide reasons for our young people to return home. Our local resources to maintain and improve our communities are limited and strained. And yet...it CAN be done.

There's an old saying: "whether you believe you can or believe you can't, you're exactly right." If we believe our rural communities are a lost cause, then they are. If we believe something better is coming in their future, then it is. The first step in Strauss's philosophy - "you have to be optimistic that you can get things done" - is a first step each of us should follow. When the going gets tough and we doubt our ability to achieve the progress we envision, we need to take a deep breath and look back on that first step to re-energize ourselves. If Robert Strauss can maintain such optimism in international trade negotiation, Middle Eastern peace talks, and

relationships with the collapsing Soviet Union, we can maintain optimism in rural development.

The optimism displayed in Strauss's life philosophy was not just empty optimism. He once said that his reputation was a result of knowing "the art of making things happen instead of just tilting at windmills." His optimism brought tangible results to the people he worked for and worked with. We must do the same. Unbridled optimism without tangible results eventually becomes silliness, and people will look elsewhere for someone who can provide actual results.

Our vision for our

communities should follow the template set forth by Robert Strauss. First we have to be optimistic that we can get things done. Then, with our passion, dedication, and other necessary resources, we can turn that optimism into tangible results for the betterment of our place and the people in it. That's not to say this task will be simple and easy. Nothing worth achieving ever was. But it CAN be done.

James Decker is a lawyer, farmer, and city councilman in Stamford, and the creator of the forthcoming "West of 98" podcast and website. He may be contacted through Facebook at [www.facebook.com/james.decker](http://www.facebook.com/james.decker).

**If yew like a good ol' bowl o' steamin' hot chili, partner, yew just mite be a Texan!!!**

**Come join Robert Lee/Silver Lion's Club for their 7th Annual CHILI SUPPER**

**Saturday • March 17**

**Robert Lee Rec Hall**

**5:30 pm to 7:30 pm • \$5/Bowl**

**Best Chili & fixin's in Coke County! Come one, Come all!**

**Drawing for a door prize!**

**Gather up the neighbors and come on down!!!**

**WE'LL BE A-WAITIN'!!!**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**May 5th**

**Downtown and All Around**

Get your spot on the map by April 15. contact Nancy at 432-413-4216 or email [vprobertlee@gmail.com](mailto:vprobertlee@gmail.com)

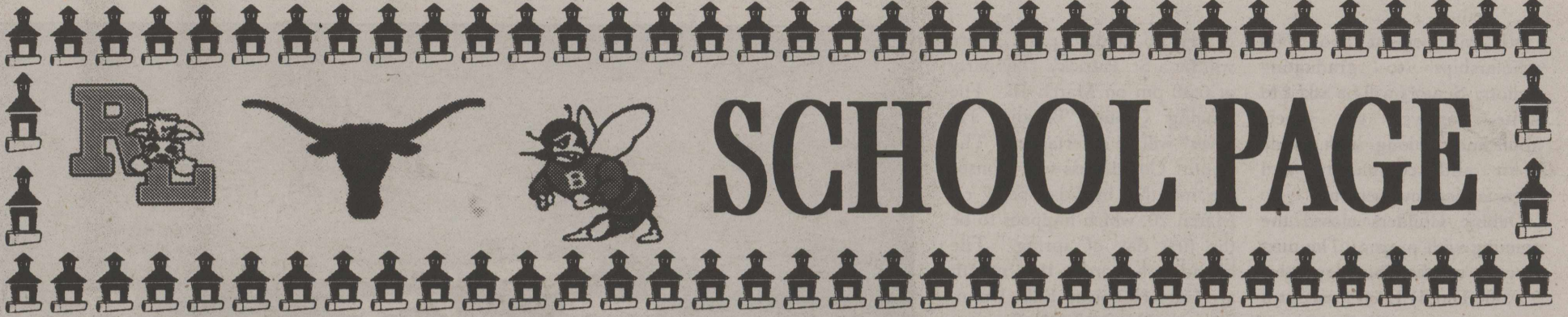
First Saturday in May

**TRADE DAYS**

Robert Lee

Vision With A Purpose Event





# SCHOOL PAGE

**Bronte earns MVP,  
Coach of the  
Year honors for  
All District Basketball**  
Longtime Bronte High School coach, Rocky Rawls, was named the Coach of the Year for District 14-1A. Shawn Puentez, a senior at Bronte, was also named the Most Valuable Player. Other Bronte and local players earned spots on the All District team. They are included below.

Offensive MVP - Jaxon Chantrill, Senior, Bronte  
Newcomer of the Year - Devan Clower, Freshman, Blackwell

First Team - Zach Jackson, Senior, Bronte; Tanner Bedford, Senior, Bronte; Michael Lowery, Sophomore, Blackwell

Second Team - Grant Gott, Sophomore, Blackwell; Nathan Scates, Junior, Robert Lee; Aaron Cervenka, Senior, Bronte; Dillan Solis, Senior, Blackwell

Honorable Mentions - Peyton Hinckley, Junior, Blackwell; Casey Skipworth, Freshman, Robert Lee, Kyler Croger, Junior, Robert Lee.

**RL Girls golf named tournament champions**

The Robert Lee High School girls golf team earned first place at their home tournament on Monday, March 5. Individual results are as follows:

Kelby Clawson - 96, Jaycee Crisp - 108, Aimee Zimmermann - 96, Megan Grantham - 103, Autumn Ramon - 111.

The Bronte High School girls team placed second. Individual results are as follows:

Darby Duncan - 102, Payton Arrott - 107, Kaily Torres - 112, India Chumney - 113, Baily

Torres - 118.  
Blackwell High School girls individual results are as follows:  
Emily Sanderson - 119, Maddie Solis - 143, Cambrey Lange - 115, Shelby Panzer - 144, Allie Panzer - 145.

**Farmers can nominate schools for STEM grants**

It's projected that in 2018 about 2.4 million jobs in science, technology, engineering and math will go unfilled. To help K-12 educators enhance their STEM curriculum and excite their students about these fields, the America's Farmers Grow Rural Education program, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, will once again provide farmers with the opportunity to nominate their local public schools for the chance to receive \$10,000 or \$25,000 grants.

Because farmers know the needs of their communities, they kick off the Grow Rural Education program by nominating a local school to apply for one of the grants. Farmers can nominate their local school by visiting [GrowRuralEducation.com](http://GrowRuralEducation.com).

Farmers can nominate their school district through April 2. After the school district receives a nomination, the Monsanto Fund will notify the district and encourage administrators and teachers to design a grant that enhances STEM education for their students.

Nominated school districts have until April 15 to submit a grant application describing their project. An advisory council composed of farmer leaders will review finalist applications and select the winning school districts.

*(Continued on next page)*



**FCCLA!** On Thursday, February 22, 2018, Blackwell CISD FCCLA members attended the Region II Service Learning Project at Compassion Ministries in Waco, Texas. The Blackwell group was the only chapter to participate and dedicate their time and assistance. While at Compassion Ministries, FCCLA members were able to play with children, help clean, and move and organize donations. Blackwell also donated 81 items to Compassion Ministries.

## CVEC Scholarship

Established to provide financial assistance for qualified individuals seeking a college, trade school or university education.

Concho Valley Electric Cooperative offers four \$2,000 scholarships.

Two scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors and two are awarded to other students of higher learning.

### 2018 Guidelines

- The applicant must be an active CVEC member whose primary residence is served by CVEC, OR be the dependent of a CVEC member whose primary residence is served by CVEC.
- The applicant will be chosen based on the following criteria: grades, leadership, community, school activities and essay.
- Permissible use of funds include payment of tuition, fees required for books, supplies and/or equipment required for courses of instruction.
- The recipient must attend a recognized Texas institution of higher education, including certified trade schools, while pursuing a degree at any level.

#### Recipients

Recipients must obtain at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale and carry a minimum of 12 hours or be considered by the registrar to be a full-time student. One half of scholarship is awarded at the beginning of the Fall Semester and the remaining one half is awarded at the beginning of the Spring semester.

Note: If recipient's cumulative GPA falls below 2.5 or if the recipient fails to register as a full-time student for the spring semester, recipient will be placed on probation for one semester. If probationary issues are not corrected within the following semester, the remaining scholarship funds allotted to that student (\$1,000) will be revoked. If the recipient fails to enroll or register for any course work during the spring semester the remaining scholarship funds allotted to that student (\$1,000) will be revoked.

#### Applications

To obtain an application you may come by the CVEC office at 2530 Pulliam St., San Angelo, TX 76905, call the Member Service Department at (325) 655-6957 or visit our website at <http://www.cvec.coop>

**Spring Break**  
**March 12 - 16**  
**Bronte ISD**  
**Robert Lee ISD**  
**Blackwell CISD**



"Whether students plan to enroll in college or find a job after high school, it is important for them to have a STEM foundation," Al Mitchell, Monsanto Fund president, said. "Grow Rural Education provides farmers with a way to give back, and farmers that have nominated grant-winning districts are thrilled to see how \$10,000 and \$25,000 grants can transform a classroom."

Since 2011, more than \$14 million has been awarded to school districts through the Grow Rural Education program.

More information about the program can be found at [GrowRuralEducation.com](http://GrowRuralEducation.com).

**Abundant Life**

[Editor's Note: The following is the tenth in a series of articles submitted by Brandon Broadbent.]

Where are we going?  
Matthew 24:43 "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into."

With all the violence and anger in the world right now, I think a lot of folks have thought about security and keeping their families safe. We have had to start locking our cars at night and watching what gets left outside. A locked door and locked windows are good, but we often forget that the tv and internet and cell phones are wide open, and the devil uses anything and everything to attack our families. Even if we maintain a level of blocking graphic attacks on our family, the devil has learned to send his message on a PG level that will still distort the mind and try to alter family values and your role as parent or guardian.

1 Peter 5:8 "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

Games and all the different apps and sites are designed to keep us engaged so that they can advertise or that someone can track how long things keep your attention for use in advertising. Everything has become about carnal and material things. The longer we are locked into these things the less time we truly see the world around us changing.

2 Timothy 3:2 "For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy"

It becomes normal when atrocities happen on the streets, or when children disappear, or people are murdered. We are living most of our lives in a virtual world that we feel we control but we are the ones being controlled.

Ephesians 5:14 "For this reason it says, 'Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'"

Look around and you can see the changes.

I love y'all. Tell someone what Jesus has done in your life.

**10 Family Fishing Ideas for Spring Break in Texas**

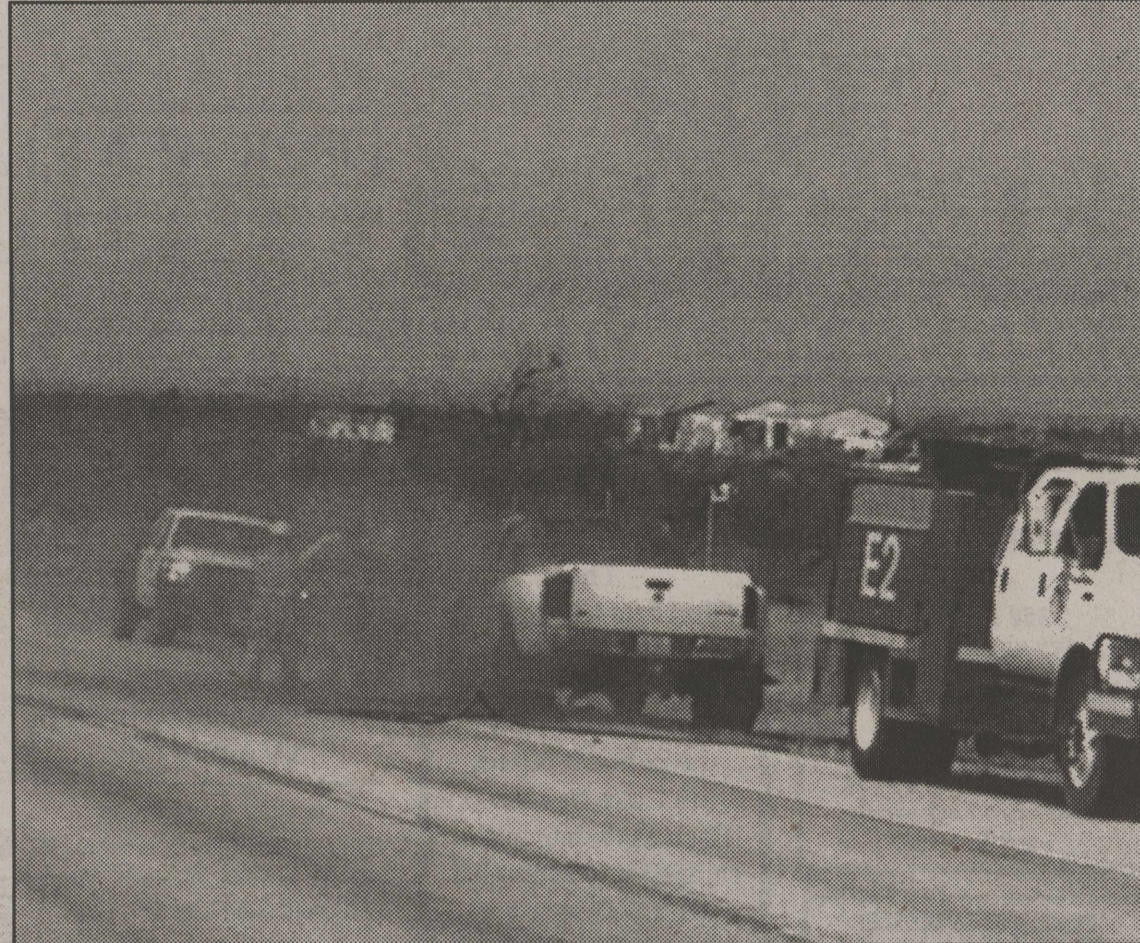
Many Texans opt outside to help reconnect with nature after a long winter, but Spring Break adventures aren't limited to swimming, camping and hiking. Fishing also offers a great way for families to experience the diverse aquatic life and scenic places that Texas has to offer.

Here are 10 places where families can make memories fishing this Spring Break:

1. The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in East Texas offers several stocked fishing ponds, ample fishing loaner equipment, a full production hatchery and a vast array of aquatic exhibits to explore. After catching catfish and rainbow trout in the fishing ponds, spring breakers can watch a live fish-feeding dive show, take a narrated tram tour through the outdoor hatchery facility and explore the wheelchair accessible wetlands trail. For those interested in seeing freshwater species up-close, the TFFC has aquariums filled with a wide variety of freshwater fish along other species like alligators and alligator snapping turtles.

2. Though the coastal city of Rockport suffered significant damage during Hurricane Harvey, this charming coastal community is open for business, which means plenty of opportunity for anglers and visitors during Spring Break. Families can plan a fun fishing day at the Rockport Beach Park Piers or the Copano Bay State Fishing Pier. While the fishing piers at nearby Goose Island State Park are not currently open due to hurricane damage, the Redfish road area of the island will be open for fishing and kayaking in the bay.

3. Colorado Bend State Park in the Texas Hill Country provides daily access to one of the best white bass spawning runs in the state, which should be in full swing during Spring Break. The park will also be hosting a free basic fishing



**Vehicle Fire!** Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Department extinguished this vehicle on fire last week. The incident occurred south of Robert Lee on Highway 208.

workshop at 8:30 am March 10. No fishing license is needed to fish in a state park but anglers will need to bring their own fishing pole and tackle.

4. Mustang Island State Park on the coast near Corpus Christi reopened for day use March 1 and offers some of the best shallow-water fishing in Texas. Anglers can experience this high-quality fishing wading from the 5-mile shoreline or while paddling the 20-mile Mustang Island State Park paddling trail.

5. For a scenic spot of river away from all the tubers, the leased River Access and Conservation Area (RACA) site at Dick's Canoes on the Brazos River is right for you. Dick's Canoes is located at the FM 2114 crossing of the Brazos River downstream of Lake Whitney. Fishing opportunities in this segment of the Brazos River include largemouth, spotted and occasional white bass. Channel catfish, freshwater

drum, and sunfish are also good species to target. Access is open from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset for bank angling and launching non-motorized boats, canoes, kayaks, or other floatable devices.

6. For hardcore bass anglers and beginners alike, Amistad Reservoir near Del Rio offers some of the best largemouth bass fishing in the state. The Amistad National Recreation Area offers excellent boat and angler access to the lake with multiple fishing docks and

cleaning stations, miles of shoreline bank fishing and 9 public boat ramps.

7. At Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson, visitors can explore aquaria and exhibits of Texas marine life, the largest redfish hatchery in the world, 36 one-acre fish culture ponds, an outdoor wetland exhibit and a youth fishing pond. A 20-foot touch pool allows visitors to gently touch marine animals such as blue crabs, hermit crabs, stone crabs, snails and even anemones.

(Continued on page 7)

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**...Spring Break Fishing**

(Continued from page 5)

8. In Texas, cold-water loving rainbow trout generally can't survive past the winter. Spring Breakers can harvest the last of the year's stocked rainbow trout in East Texas at the Tyler Nature Center for free 8 am to 12 pm, March 12 - 15. TPWD Inland Fisheries staff will have loaner equipment, tackle and bait on hand to help families catch and clean up to five rainbow trout each at the free event.

9. Lake Conroe near Houston is making a name for itself this year as one of the top Toyota ShareLunker largemouth bass fishing lakes in the state with more than 12 entries so far. Anglers also have excellent opportunities to catch catfish, crappie, hybrid striped bass and bluegill in the 20 thousand acre lake. The Stubblefield Lake Recreation Area offers shore fishing as well as non-motorized boat access. Other public access facilities at Lake Conroe can be found here.

10. Near Lubbock, Lake Alan Henry has the only population of Alabama bass in Texas. This species grows much larger and faster than native spotted bass and can reach more than four pounds. Families can spend the day targeting this uncommon species or other popular sport fish like crappie and largemouth bass at the Sam Wahl Recreation Area. The facility offers an excellent dock and fishing pier facility.

For anglers over 17 years old, a valid fishing license with a freshwater or saltwater endorsement is required to take fish, mussels, clams, crayfish or other aquatic life in the public waters of Texas. A fishing license is not required if fishing from the bank in a state park or in waters completely enclosed by a state park.

More information on current fishing regulations, limits and license requirements can be found online in the TPWD Outdoor Annual, or get the mobile app free for iOS and Android here.

**DOT answers questions on ELD mandate**

by Jessica Domel

America's ranchers and livestock haulers have just days left before the waiver granting them extra time to comply with electronic logging device (ELD) mandate expires March 18.

Officials with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) recently sat down with the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) Radio Network to clarify what's required under the law and what waivers may be available to drivers.

Below is the question and answer session with Joe DeLorenzo, FMCSA director of Enforcement and Compliance.

Q: Who is required by law now to have an electronic logging device in their truck?

A: The way that the law reads currently is that any drivers that

prior to the implementation of the rule are required to fill out a paper log book, those drivers are required to switch over to have an electronic logging device with some exceptions.

Q: What are those exceptions?

A: Well, I think the ones that come up primarily are if a carrier that is currently filling out a log book only fills it out on what we call an occasional use exception. So, there's an exception that if you only have to fill out a log book less than eight days out of every 30, you could stick with your paper log. The other most common exemption for ELDs is the pre-2000 model year. So those drivers that are using trucks that are older than year 2000 are not required to have an ELD because of the technical difficulties with getting that installation done on the older vehicles.

Q: The 90-day waiver for livestock haulers is set to expire in March. After that point, what types of haulers will be required to get an ELD and who's not required?

A: For livestock, we could start with the original discussion that we just had. If those livestock haulers are required to fill out a log book, and they're doing it on a regular basis more than eight days in every 30, then they would have to have an ELD. But there also is an exemption from all of the hours of service regulations, which includes the number of hours you have to

drive as well as the ELD rule for those livestock haulers that are operating within 150-mile radius. Those drivers are not required to have a log book or an ELD or comply with the hours of service regulations.

Q: If a driver is taking cattle from Texas to Kansas, that driver would then need an ELD unless they have an older truck, correct?

A: That's right or unless it's not a regular activity. We do see that where some of these drivers and ranchers will take one or two trips a month and if they stay below the eight days, they also would not be required to have an ELD.

Q: What is required of people who need to have an ELD? Do you need to only have the device or are there other things that are needed to go along with having that device?

A: Well, primarily now, it's having the device and continuing to use it in accordance with the regs. It really functions just like an electronic version of the paper log. They have to have it. They have to maintain it, the records electronically, just the way they do for their log books. If they're stopped, then an officer asks them for their logs, they present them the ELD. So, it really just functions the same way that it does now if you're operating on a paper log.

Q: How many hours are they allowed to drive under the ELD before they need to stop and take a break?

A: There's sort of a two-part answer to that question. The general hours of service rules are 11 hours driving in a 14-hour work day. But I also think it's important to remind folks, especially the livestock and other agricultural commodity carriers, of that 150-mile exemption. In this case, the 11 hours and 14-hour workday doesn't start until they exit that 150-mile radius. So, they will probably have several hours additional to drive and work in addition to the 11 hours driving and the 14 hours working.

Q: If a driver stops to get gas or get something to eat, is that part of the drivable hours? Does that count as being on the road driving?

A: That's not counted towards the 11 hours of driving time, but it does count towards the 14-hour workday.

Q: Are there exemptions other than the ones we've talked about for farmers and ranchers and people hauling livestock under the ELD mandate?

A: There's one other exemption that I think is worth mentioning for this particular community that's not a specific ELD exemption, but it does, like the 150-mile radius hours of service exemption, also impact ELDs. Technically, it's a

statutory exemption called covered farm vehicles. That exemption is for when a rancher or a farmer is transporting their own products. There is a fairly significant exemption for them from a lot of the regulations including hours of service. So, for that particular community, that's definitely something that's worth knowing about and being aware that, that exemption may be available for them.

Q: How can they find out more about that exemption?

A: The best place to go for that is on our website at FMCSA.dot.gov. It's probably worth noting that we're going to be setting up a specific page relating to agricultural issues and ELDs and hours of service. So, if folks start checking that, we're going to put a lot of extra information up there because there are so many different exemptions and they are a little bit confusing sometimes. We're going to try and put as much information up there specifically for the agricultural community as we can.

Q: If a driver has a Ford F-150 and is hauling a Gooseneck, would the driver have to get an ELD? Does the ELD apply in that situation or is it just for the bigger trucks?

(Continued on next page)

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**...Primary Election**

**results**

(Continued from front page)

In the election for County/District Clerk, Monica Reyes received 521 votes and 112 under votes.

In the election for Commissioner, Precinct 4, Joe Sefcik (I) received 88 votes and 31 under votes.

In statewide races, Coke County Republican voters agreed with the majority of Republican Texans in their choices for Ted Cruz as U.S. Senator, Mike Conaway as U.S. District 11 Representative, Greg Abbott as Governor and Dan Patrick as Lt. Governor. Coke County's Democrat voters also agreed with other Texans in their votes for these races. They cast their votes for Beto O'Rourke for U.S. Senator, Jennie Lou Leeder for U.S. District 11 Representative, and Michael Cooper for Lt. Governor. With the huge field of nine candidates running for the Democrat nomination for Governor, Lupe Valdez and Andrew White pulled ahead of the pack in Coke County and statewide.

There were 11 non-binding propositions on the Republican ballot and 12 on the Democrat ballot. These propositions and the results (in percentages, for/against) for both Coke County and statewide are listed below.

**Republican**

1. Texas should replace the property tax system with an appropriate consumption tax equivalent.

Coke County 60/40; Texas 67/32

2. No governmental entity should ever construct or fund construction of toll roads without voter approval.

Coke County 90/10; Texas 90/10

3. Republicans in the Texas House should select their Speaker nominee by secret ballot in a binding caucus without Democrat influence.

Coke County 84/16; Texas 85/15

4. Texas should require employers to screen new hires through the free E-Verify system to protect jobs for legal workers.

Coke County 90/10; Texas 90/10

5. Texas families should be empowered to choose from public, private, charter, or homeschool options for their children's education, using tax credits or exemptions without government constraints or intrusion.

Coke County 74/26; Texas 78/22

6. Texas should protect the privacy and safety of women and children in spaces such as bathrooms, locker rooms, and

showers in all Texas schools and government buildings.

Coke County 94/6; Texas 90/10

7. I believe abortion should be abolished in Texas.

Coke County 73/27; Texas 68/32

8. Voter fraud should be a felony in Texas to help ensure fair elections.

Coke County 97/3; Texas 95/5

9. Texas demands that Congress completely repeal Obamacare.

Coke County 92/8; Texas 87/13

10. To slow the growth of property taxes, yearly revenue increases should be capped at 4%, with increases in excess of 4% requiring voter approval.

Coke County 89/11; Texas 94/6

11. Tax dollars should not be used to fund the building of stadiums for professional or semi-professional sports teams.

Coke County 85/15; Texas 87/13

**Democrat**

1. Should everyone in Texas have the right to quality public education from pre-k to 12th grade, and affordable college and career training without the burden of crushing student loan debt?

Coke County 91/9; Texas 96/4

2. Should everyone in Texas have the right to refinance student loan debt with the Federal Reserve at a 0% interest rate, as relief for the crushing burden of debt and an investment in the next generation of Americans?

Coke County 91/9; Texas 94/6

3. Should everyone in Texas have a right to healthcare, guaranteed by a universal, quality Medicare-for-all system?

Coke County 94/6; Texas 95/5

4. Should everyone in Texas have the right to economic security, where all workers have earned paid family and sick leave and a living wage that respects their hard work?

Coke County 94/6; Texas 96/4

5. Should the Democratic Party promote a national jobs program, with high wage and labor standards, to replace crumbling infrastructure and rebuild hurricane damaged areas, paid for with local, state, and federal bonds financed through the Federal Reserve at low interest with long term maturities?

Coke County 84/16; Texas 93/7

6. Should everyone in Texas have the right to clean air, safe water, and a healthy environment?

Coke County 97/3; Texas 99/1

7. Should everyone in Texas have the right to a life of dignity and respect, free from discrimination and harassment anywhere, including businesses and public facilities, no matter how they identify, the color of their skin, who they love,

socioeconomic status, or from where they come?

Coke County 97/3; Texas 97/3

8. Should everyone in Texas have the right to affordable and accessible housing and modern utilities including high speed internet, free from any form of discrimination?

Coke County 87/13; Texas 92/8

9. Should every eligible Texan have the right to vote, made easier by automatic voter registration, the option to vote by mail, a state election holiday, and no corporate campaign influence, foreign interference, or illegal gerrymandering?

Coke County 94/6; Texas 95/5

10. Should everyone in Texas have the right to a fair criminal justice system that treats people equally and puts an end to the mass incarceration of young people of color for minor offenses?

Coke County 90/10; Texas 97/3

11. Should there be a just and fair comprehensive immigration reform solution that includes an earned path to citizenship for law-abiding immigrants and their children, keeps families together, protects DREAMers, and provides workforce solutions for businesses?

Coke County 87/13; Texas 95/5

12. Should everyone in Texas have the right to a fair tax system, where all interests (business, corporations, and individuals) pay their share, so that state government meets its obligations?

Coke County 94/6; Texas 96/4

**...Letter to the Editor**

(Continued from front page)

That didn't mean a whole lot to me, so that's why I called Ms. Sisemore and asked her to explain this to me. She said that's an easy one and that the value of your home times 0.001. That equals how much tax I would pay each year for a paid ambulance service. You're asking how much is it? Well, a higher valued home in the county valued at \$187,000 would be  $\$187,000 \times 0.001 = \$187/\text{year}$ . That's it. I talked with a friend of ours and he said to use his house as an example. His house is valued at \$129,000; so his taxes would be  $\$129,000 \times 0.001 = \$129/\text{year}$ . Ms. Sisemore did remind me that not many of the houses were valued as these. She said the average \$40,000 home would only pay \$40 per year in ESD tax to have a paid ambulance service!!! If your home was \$15,000, you'd pay \$15/year, so on and so forth. It did not sound nearly as bad when she put it into these simple terms for me.

I am making a plea to everyone to prayerfully consider creating an Emergency Servicing District, or ESD. If you do not think this is "your fight" and you don't want to get involved, imagine what would

500 signatures for ballot

happen if (and when) you need an ambulance and the dispatcher on the other end of your phone conversation tells you there is no one to answer your call for help!? It's a very frightening thought. Are you willing to give up just a little money each year to create and maintain a paid ambulance service? Let's work on creating a county ESD.

they're still in compliance while still meeting the needs of what their hauling?

A: That's a really good question. I've had some of those same conversations. The first thing I do think we need to point out is that the ELD rule itself didn't change of those underlying hours of service rules that we talked about earlier—the 11 hours driving and the 14 hours working. Those rules have been in place since 2005. So the easy answer is, well, they should be doing now with an ELD whatever they were doing prior when they were operating with a paper log because those allowable hours haven't changed.

So that being said, I also understand that there has been some confusion about that. It's really a question that the transporter has to kind of work out and maybe do some more advanced planning in terms of what their routes are, how many drivers that they're using and when they're going to be able to stop and be able to ensure their own safety, the safety of the folks on the road and also the safety of the animals that they're transporting.

Q: Joe, is there anything else that you guys want us to mention?

A: To reiterate, I know that it is a little bit complex because of the different layers of exemptions and things that are out there, but the first thing that anybody needs to do is look through that or talk to some folks to figure out whether they are required to have the ELD and any of the questions that come up.

We have a lot of information on our website, lots of frequently asked questions and we also have a mailbox there for folks to email in questions if they have things to the extent that we can kind of help clarify any of those things, we're here for that and happy to do so.

Q: What's that website?

A: [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ELD](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ELD) will get you right there and in addition to where the FAQs are, there's also a subscription service so you can get updated emails when other things change on the website and that sort of stuff.

Thank you, Lanette Fletcher

**...ELD Questions**

(Continued from previous page)

A: It might. So, it depends on all of the exemptions and things like that, but generally speaking, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety regulations, which are what the ELD is included in, start when you're operating a vehicle above 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating in interstate commerce. So, most of those larger pickups, Gooseneck trailer combinations are probably going to be around there or a little bit above, so it could be that those are required.

Q: It just depends?

A: Yep.

Q: Why are ELDs now required? Is this about safety?

A: Absolutely, it is. There's really two parts to the answer to that question. The ELD rule came about because of a congressional mandate. Congress decided to require this rule, and the point of it is to improve compliance with the hours of service regulations. There are a few things that we really know for sure and the more hours on the road, fatigue increases and that can lead to more accidents. So, the point of the ELD is to improve compliance with the hours of service regulations and then therefore improve safety.

Q: You know, while we're talking about safety, we've had some livestock owners who have expressed concerns with us on social media about what they'll do with their livestock while they're taking the required break under the ELD. What are some ways that drivers can ensure that

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