

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

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Serving Coke County

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Vol. 130, No. 36

Friday, March 16, 2018

Lion's Club Chili Supper set for March 17

The Robert Lee - Silver Lion's Club will host their 7th Annual Chili Supper on Saturday, March 17, from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm at the Robert Lee Rec Hall. The fresh, homemade chili will be \$5 per bowl and will be joined by all of the fixin's! There will also be a drawing for a door prize.

CCRTA to meet March 19

The Coke County Retired Teachers Association will meet Monday, March 19. The noon luncheon meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church in Bronte.

Applications for utility assistance being accepted

Concho Valley Community Action Agency is now accepting mail-in applications for utility

assistance. 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.

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.

Important Election Dates

Local Entity Elections

Early Voting

April 23, 2018 through May 1, 2018

Election Day

Saturday, May 5, 2018

Primary Run-Off Election

(Commissioner, Precinct 2)

Early Voting

May 14, 2018 through May 18, 2018

Election Day

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Friday, March 16

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

Monday, March 19

Coke County Retired Teacher Assoc. Meeting,
12 noon, First Baptist Church, Bronte

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

Tuesday, March 20

Robert Lee - Silver Lions Club Meeting, 6:30 am,
Old Jail Annex, Robert Lee

Bronte Health & Rehab Center Auxiliary Meeting,
1 pm, BHRC Dining Room

Junior High Track -
Hornet Relays at Blackwell
(Bronte, Robert Lee, Blackwell)

Wednesday, March 21

High School Golf -
Christoval Tournament, Bentwood Country Club, San Angelo
(Robert Lee)

Thursday, March 22

High School Tennis -
Bronte Dual at Blackwell

Friday, March 23

High School Track -
Hornet Relays at Blackwell
(Bronte, Blackwell)
Rolling Plains Relays at Jayton
(Robert Lee)

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.

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.

Early Voting begins April 23 for

May 5 local election

Early voting will begin April 23, 2018, for the May 5, 2018, local government entity elections.

The City of Robert Lee will hold an election for the position of mayor and for three council members. The offices are currently held by Mayor Leroy Casey and council member Shaunna Grantham. Also open

are the council member positions formerly held by Toni Rainwater and Joe Longoria. Leroy Casey has filed for re-election as mayor and will be joined on the ballot by Allyson Crenshaw and Shell Williams. Billy Williams, Nora Broadbent, Brandi Brosh, Ricky Green, and Casey Scruggs have all filed for seats on the Council.

The City of Bronte has terms expiring for mayor and two council positions. These are two year terms. The offices are currently held by Mayor Gerald Sandusky and council members Wade Stautzenberger and Paul Gohman. Buzz Gohman has filed for the mayor's position, with Donna Hall, Lee Wommack, and Steve Hines filing for places on the council.

(Continued on next page)

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Per Year Outside of Texas ... \$37.00

Obituaries



Romine-Neiman

Teresa Ellen "Grammy" Romine-Neiman of Hobbs, New Mexico, formerly of Robert Lee, Texas, peacefully passed and went to be with the Lord on February 16, 2018.

She was born in Lovington, New Mexico, on March 19, 1961, and grew up in Tatum, New Mexico. Teresa was a loving person who never met a stranger. She worked for many years as a waitress and everyone was her friend. Not only was she a dedicated Grammy who spoiled her grandkids, but also "adopted" many others. Later in life she married her soulmate, Doc, and they enjoyed many years together.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dennis "Doc" Neiman; her parents, Cuin and Mary Elaine Norvell and Harley Romine; her brother, Rick Norvell, and her granddaughter, Arilyn Martin.

She is survived by her daughter, Amber Martin, and husband, Kyle; their three daughters, Charidy, Rylie, and Kerri; her son, Kent Freeman; five South Dakota kids, and many grandkids. She is also survived by four brothers, one sister, and a large extended family.

Condolences may be sent in care of Amber Martin, 1407 Brekon, 1407 Breckon, Hobbs, New Mexico 88240.

36-1tc

...Local Election

(Continued from front page)

Bronte ISD will hold an election to elect three members to the Board of Trustees. These are three year terms currently held by Ashley Braswell, David McWright, and Blake Braswell. Blake Braswell, David McWright, and Ashley Braswell have filed for re-election. Bill Torres, Chris Jernigan, TJ

McCullough, and Walt Smith have also filed for a place on the board.

Robert Lee ISD will also hold an election to elect three members to the Board of Trustees. These are three year terms currently held by George Grim, Tom Sawyer, Jr., and Wes Washam and all have filed for re-election.

West Coke County Hospital District has three two year terms expiring for their Board of Trustees. The terms of Pat Stephens, Pat Carwile and Sarah Green are expiring and all have filed for re-election.

East Coke County Hospital District Board of Trustees has three two year terms expiring. These offices are currently held by Howard Baker, Lanette Fletcher, and Everett Bedford. All incumbents have filed for re-election.

Nostalgia...

With a Purpose

by James M. Decker

"I miss the good old days here."

In conversations about rural communities, some variation of that comment comes up often. We live in the present and we plan for the future, but we view our town through the prism of the past. It's no real secret that many of our rural communities, and rural America at large, are worse off today than they were 10, 25, or 50 years ago. As a result, our goal for the future is, to some extent, to be what we used

to be. Yet, I ask: which part of the "good old days" were good?

Certain threads were unquestionably positive: teeming downtowns, busy mom-and-pop shops, local industry providing steady jobs. However, hindsight can be tinged with rose coloring. Positives stand out while negatives fade from memory. Negatives may have existed for others and we didn't even realize it. Moreover, which "good old days" were the real ones? Nostalgia for the 1950s is common, but I've read 1950s-era literature that longed for prior, simpler times. Nostalgia can be a product of one's own frame of reference. That's not inherently bad, but it can create a dubious marker for future goals.

As I thought about this topic, it occurred to me that our idea of nostalgia encompasses both a What and a Why. Several years ago, Simon Sinek wrote a wildly popular business book called "Start With Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action." In short, this book argues that leaders should build around Why (a purpose) rather than What (a product). A successful What can be fleeting, but people are inspired by the Why, by a sense of purpose. Much rural nostalgia is exemplified through the What, the tangible products of prosperity. Alas, those products are impractical as a tool for future improvement. We cannot resurrect archaic industries or build a local economy around business methods that are no longer profitable.

Underlying that What factor, though, is the Why - a sense of purpose in our communities. Rural communities did not prosper BECAUSE downtown streets were busy and retail shops were numerous. Rural communities prospered because a sense of purpose fueled the community. Our communities originated and prospered for a specific purpose. Busy streets and numerous retail shops were results of that purpose. When rural prosperity slid downward, it wasn't because our shops closed, it was because a changing world

and shifting business environment undercut our original sense of purpose, our Why. Communities built around labor-intensive agricultural methods or local manufacturing lost their purpose when those economic drivers changed or went away entirely. As an outcome of the lost Why, we lost our What too. Shops closed and downtown streets fell quiet.

Our Why in the future is the same as the Why of the past - a successful community has a sense of purpose, a reason for existing - but may be expressed differently, with a new What, to meet the demands of a different world. Successful retail businesses look different now than they did in the 1950s. Different buildings may be occupied than the ones of rose-colored memory. Agriculture or manufacturing might still work, but with different dimensions.

As we plan for the future with a longing eye for the past, remember that true, meaningful nostalgia is less about the What and more about the Why. Rebuilding a cohesive Why, a community's innate sense of purpose, ensures that tangible outcomes are built to last. Let's study our Why and build on that. *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 [facebook.com/james.decker](https://www.facebook.com/james.decker).

Thank You Jesus

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

My name is Brandon Brpdabent. At one time I was lost in a sea that seemed too deep to walk, too turbulent to swim, and too wide to cross. I was hurt, defeated, I had lost all hope. I was broken inside so bad that I was sure I would never be okay. My mind was in a prison that would not let me escape the disappointment I had become and the feeling of despair that always shadowed me.

I poured myself into work and made a quick and calculated rise to the top. Now I had power and esteem. But, I was still broken and still locked in despair. My toys became more expensive and I tried to fill the hole in my life with hobbies too numerous to count. I learned to fly planes, play guitar, hunt, fish, more alcohol, more drugs, but still that same bottomless, abyss. My hole, my personal hell.

I had the greatest wife in the world. She couldn't fix me, but she began to pray for me. If you have someone who keeps lifting you up in prayer things will begin to happen. My family didn't understand, they worried, they began to pray. I began to play church.

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 Bevil
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

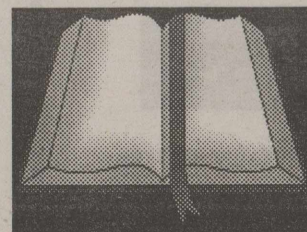
Forgiven Ministries
117 W. Main, Bronte
Russ Frasier, Pastor
Sun. 10 am
Tuesday 6 pm Table Time

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
Recardo 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

Russell Davis
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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

I would go but never listened. If God began to get through I would just run. A little further away, a little more intensive position, to block out what I know now was God beginning to make an appearance in my life.

Things swirled out of my control. The jobs dried up. Friends faded away. The money was gone. My toys were sold to continue feeding my habits. Until the last of the well went dry. There I was without anything to hide behind. I was done. A full and total surrender to my Father. Jesus and I met, and my life has never been the same. Thank you, Jesus!

2 Timothy 1:9 "9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,"

Romans 10:9-10 "9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek"

There are many lost in the world today. If you are lost there is hope. Jesus is waiting on you to come. If you know someone that is lost always remember to love, and never stop praying!

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

Letter to the Editor

First a little History. The East Coke County Hospital District (ECCHD) doing business as the Bronte Health and Rehab Center and the West Coke County Hospital District (WCCHD) were originally established as hospitals. Why one on the west side of the county and one on the east side of the county speaks of the historical division of Coke County. The hospitals were funded by taxes levied on Coke county taxpayers (residents and businesses) within their borders. When it became apparent the hospitals could not stay open due to lack of patients and medical professionals, the ECCHD and the WCCHD in 2006 asked the State of Texas if they could instead operate as nursing homes. The State said yes.

Now a little current information. Funding for ECCHD and WCCHD has not changed from their inception. They get a lot of their money from Coke County taxpayers. For 2017: ECCHD billed \$515,000 (a tax rate of 46 cents per \$100 valuation); WCCHD \$596,000 (a tax rate of 25 cents

per \$100 property valuation). The net average taxable value of a home is \$47,600 in Coke County; in ECCHD the taxes for 2017 for such a home were \$219 and in WCCHD they were \$119.

These nursing home "tax incomes" are in addition to the monies they get from Medicare and Medicaid programs for services rendered to the residents. How many nursing home residents are being serviced monthly in Coke County Texas on the average? 65 per month. For One Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars. Annually. Oil and gas production can easily cause WCCHD total figures (not residential) to double in a single year.

New solutions to old issues and future problems. The very Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 286 (Hospital Districts Created by Voter Approval) under which ECCHD and WCCHD were created allows for the district to operate or contract for the operation of a mobile emergency medical service.

Now is the time to consolidate the two nursing homes into one. Eliminate the inefficiencies of operating two facilities only 12 miles apart with redundant facilities, services and staffing. Get the benefit of reducing management overhead. Get the synergy of utilizing a facility built originally for more than 60 persons (as both hospitals were). Be it located in either Robert Lee or Bronte should not be the major consideration. The resultant savings could then fully fund ambulance service in Coke County.

Obviously, analysis of what it will cost to create (equipment, equipment housing, where in

county will equipment be held, staffing levels and salaries, liability insurance etc, etc, etc) must be known BEFORE any ambulance service creation...gotta know how much you're gonna have to spend to properly provide the county wide service...because it's going to be several hundred t h o u s a n d dollars...annually...and it'll stay around!!

Or a modification of the existent volunteer ambulance services in some way to continue forward may also provide options for their continuance. What needs to be done for example to attract more (than the current 4) "west siders" to approach closer to the 15 volunteers on the "east siders"? Or does this just perpetuate the East vs West of Coke County? What resources do the volunteer groups need to continue forward?

And under any scenario, emergency medical services (read ambulance services) are and would be a great benefit to any and all Coke County residents. Having an ambulance service in Coke County to justify the continued existence and operation of the tax supported nursing homes in Coke County is not. The 3,300 plus taxpayers in Coke County prefer to pay taxes benefiting all county residents, not just 65 residents and those making a living serving them. Adding another tax and taxing entity via an Emergency Servicing District (ESD) in Coke County is not a reasonable solution to the problem.

Last and not least, where do our County leaders stand on this issue? We know that the county budget is tight and dollars are not laying around.

But since this is a county wide issue, shouldn't the county take the lead in addressing the problem and solving same? Are State of Texas grant monies available to the County for creation and or maintenance of a county wide ambulance service?

East versus West is just plain nonproductive. Come to solutions for the betterment of all citizens of Coke County Texas.

Tommy Parker

Wildfire season stresses need for preparation

Wildfire season hit Texas early this year, emphasizing the need for farmers, ranchers and homeowners to be prepared, Coke County Farm Bureau President John Ross Copeland said. "It's extremely important for everyone to take precautions and prepare their homes, barns and any other buildings," John Ross said. "Fires can start suddenly and overwhelm even the best of us." One match, welding equipment, a careless fire or a cigarette can spark a wildfire, so stresses the importance of being prepared.

"There are fairly simple steps we can take to help protect ourselves and our homes, buildings and equipment from devastating destruction," said.

These steps include cleaning gutters and connecting garden hoses long enough to reach every inch of the house.

Other management practices include trimming trees up to six to nine feet above ground, keeping grass mowed short and maintaining a safe zone at least 30 feet away from the home.

This zone should be free of flammable material, such as wood piles, dried leaves, brush

and other landscaping.

"Texas is like a tinderbox right now, and fire risks will remain constant throughout the winter and early spring," said John Ross Copeland.

John Ross noted there are several websites to visit while preparing for wildfire season, including the Texas A&M Forest Service and Texas Ready for Wildfire.

"Whatever you do, have a plan in place to protect your home and family," John Ross Copeland said.

Coke County featured in Texas Midwest Guide

Bronte and Robert Lee are two of 42 communities featured in the 2018 Texas Midwest Guide. The 23rd Edition of the annual publication is now in circulation in print as well as online digitally at texasmidwestguide.org. Printed copies are available at the Bronte City Hall, Wool N' Cotton Shop, Rusty Bell, Shear Heaven Salon & Boutique, Pena's Red Barn, Larry Dyess Auto, Glenn-Bevins Insurance, Bronte Body Shop and Robert Lee City Hall.

The Texas Midwest Guide includes community information, attractions, recreation, lodging, regional calendar of events, unique shopping and dining opportunities and much, much more about the 30-county Texas Midwest region. Distribution of 45K copies goes to the Texas Travel Information Centers along the State's borders, chamber of commerce, CVBs, hotels & motels, hospital, colleges and universities and advertisers throughout the region. If your business or local venue would like a supply of Guides, please contact the TMCN Office at 325-795-8626 or tmcn@tmcn.org.

For more information about the Texas Midwest Community Network, visit our website at www.tmcn.org.

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'!!!

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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

First Saturday in May

TRADE DAYS

Robert Lee

Vision With A
Purpose Event



SCHOOL PAGE

RL Elementary to host parent information meeting

Robert Lee Elementary will host a STAAR parent information meeting for grades 3 - 6 on Thursday, March 22, from 6 pm until 6:30 pm in the school cafeteria.

Family Reading Night set for RL Elementary

A family reading night for grades K - 2 will be held at Robert Lee Elementary on Thursday, March 22, from 5:30 pm until 6 pm. The event will be held in the child's classroom.

Blackwell CISD Awards 4th Six Weeks Perfect Attendance

Pre-Kindergarten

Bryce Senegal, Jaydin Stanley, Andy Vigil

Kindergarten

Faith Garca, Maddilyn Sloan

1st Grade

Drake Glenn, Maria Lopez

2nd Grade

Makala McMurtrey, Gabriel Williams

3rd Grade

Brayden Claborn, Lilee Sanderson

4th Grade

Kreed Cummings, Avery Glenn, Paige McVey

5th Grade

Cooper Claborn, Kinley Cummings, Morgan Dove, Makinlee Killough, Marlene Sanchez, Brionna Sommerfeld, Emma Williams

6th Grade

Karter Cummings, Shelby Rasco

7th Grade

Dylan Taylor, Maverick Whitlow

8th Grade

Cadi Powers, Stockton Solis

9th Grade

Samuel Brinkman, Cameron Coldiron, Kiley Cummings, Jady Feitshans, Myrka Ibarra,

Darrian Kenney, Caitlin Lange, Carson Sorells, Jaydon Taylor

10th Grade

Jared Julian, Emily Rasco, Emilee Sanderson, Madison Solis

11th Grade

Peyton Hinckley, Christan McElory, Elizabeth Meyer, Carli Powers

12th Grade

Cambrey Coulter, Payton McKee, Shelby Panzer, Devin Rasco, Orrin Sirmons, Dillon Solis, Kyler Walls, Mercedes Williams

A Honor Roll

1st Grade

Drake Glenn, Lawson Hambright, Weston May

2nd Grade

Dameon Rivera, Slade Wilkinson

3rd Grade

Brayden Claborn, Brynlea Wojtek

4th Grade

Avery Glenn, Lydia Pico, Traci Sefcik, Jaxon Shipman

5th Grade

Cooper Claborn, Kinley Cummings

6th Grade

Karter Cummings

7th Grade

Matthew Shipman

8th Grade

Cadi Powers

9th Grade

Kiley Cummings, Nathaniel Shipman

10th Grade

Haylee Cason, Grant Gott, Jordan Jones, Emily Rasco, Katelyn Robertson, Emilee Sanderson, Brendan Scott, Madison Solis

11th Grade

Vickie Davis, Elizabeth Meyer, Carli Powers, Tori Scott

12th Grade

Cambrey Coulter, Payton McKee, Shelby Panzer

A/B Honor Roll

1st Grade

Maria Lopez, Johannah Luz

2nd Grade

Hegan Burton, Bella Clark

3rd Grade

Joaquin Garcia, Ashlynn McKinney, Jazlene Rios, Lilee Sanderson, Ellie Scott, Emmie Scott

4th Grade

Ryder Antilley, Hondo Burton, Kreed Cummings, Kassie Flowers, Morgan Rasco, Jacob Rivera, Landen Willingham

5th Grade

Morgan Dove, Brionna Sommerfeld, Emma Williams

6th Grade

Jesus Gonzalez, Zachary Pierce

7th Grade

Luz Cano, Autumn Clark

8th Grade

Chloe McKinney, Stockton Solis

9th Grade

Samuel Brinkman, Devan Clower, Cameron Coldiron, Jady Feitshans, Cirstyn Gober, Myrka Ibarra, Darrian Kenney, Caitlin Lange, Allison Panzer, Zachary Panzer, Caleb Sirmons

10th Grade

Clay Cruz-Mendieta, Sydney Hayes

11th Grade

Vickie Davis, JR Guia

12th Grade

Hunter Clark, Jimmie Lewis, Orrin Sirmons, Carola Savino,

Dillon Solis, Mercedes Williams



Robert Lee ISD

Breakfast

Monday, March 19

Sausage, egg, and cheese sandwich, fruit, juice, milk

Head Start - Same as above

Tuesday, March 20

Pita Pocket Breakfast, fruit, juice, milk

Head Start - Same as above

Wednesday, March 21

Waffles, bacon, fruit, juice, milk

Head Start - Same as above

Thursday, March 22

Cinnamon roll, sausage, fruit, juice, milk

Head Start - Cheesy toast, sausage, fruit, juice, milk

Friday, March 23

Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk

Head Start - Same as above

Lunch

Monday, March 19

Pizza, salad, carrots, apple slices, milk

Head Start - Same as above
Tuesday, March 20

Fish sticks, mac and cheese, coleslaw, green beans, orange smiles, milk

Head Start - Shrimp poppers, mac and cheese, coleslaw, green beans, orange smiles, milk

Wednesday, March 21

Country fried steak, okra, gravy, mashed potatoes, roll, strawberry cup, milk

Head Start - Country fried steak strips, gravy, mashed potatoes, roll, strawberry cup, milk

Thursday, March 22

Meat and cheese chalupas, salsa, zesty cucumbers, refried beans, rosy applesauce, milk

Head Start - Same as above

Friday, March 23

Hamburger, garnish, broccoli, sweet potato fries, mixed fruit, krispy cereal treat, milk

Head Start - Hamburger, garnish, broccoli, sweet potato fries, mixed fruit, milk

Bronte ISD

Breakfast

Monday, March 19

Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk

Tuesday, March 20

Donut holes, fruit, juice, milk

Wednesday, March 21

PB&J, fruit, juice, milk

Thursday, March 22

BK Tornados, fruit, juice, milk

Friday, March 23

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>

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Sausage, biscuit, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch

Monday, March 19

Salisbury steak, roasted potatoes, biscuit, brown gravy, garden salad, fruity gelatin, milk

Tuesday, March 20

Nachos Grande, refried beans, tomato cup, cucumber dippers, salsa, pears, sherbet cup, milk

Wednesday, March 21

Chicken sandwich, oven tots, veggie cup, Mandarin orange, milk

Thursday, March 22

Asian chicken, egg roll, rice, baby carrots, steamed broccoli, pineapple, milk

Friday, March 23

Ham and cheese melt, chips, fresh fruit, pinto beans, tiny tomato cup, cookie, milk

Blackwell CISD

Breakfast

Monday, March 19

Waffles-n-sausage, fruit, juice, milk

Tuesday, March 20

Biscuit-n-sausage, fruit, juice, milk

Wednesday, March 21

Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk

Thursday, March 22

Funnel cake, fruit, juice, milk

Friday, March 23

Biscuit-n-gravy, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch

Monday, March 19

Chopped BBQ sandwich, pickle spears, coleslaw, chips, fruit, milk

Tuesday, March 20

Chicken strips, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, fruit, milk

Wednesday, March 21

Breaded pork chops, broccoli, rice, and cheese, glazed carrots, hot roll, fruit, milk

Thursday, March 22

Baked BBQ chicken, mac-n-cheese, steamed spinach, bread, fruit, milk

Friday, March 23

Beef tips and rice or noodles, carrots, green beans, fruit, milk

Alternative Ways to Make College More Affordable

A college education is one of the largest expenses you're likely to have in your lifetime, second only to buying a home. Unfortunately, the cost has increased dramatically in recent years.

Tuition plus fees at four-year public colleges jumped 71 percent over the last decade, forcing many would-be degree seekers to delay or even forgo attending college. For others, it's meant heading to school while taking on large amounts of debt.

Today, however, new solutions are popping up to address the college affordability crisis. Most people know about grants and scholarships. Students can now also consider alternate paths to college credit, helping them graduate faster and more affordably, say experts.

Here's what you need to know:

- The average cost of a typical undergraduate college course is \$1,782. In high school,

take as many Advanced Placement (AP) and College Level Examination Program (CLEP) courses as you can handle, increasing your opportunity to earn college credit and save money on tuition.

- The College Board's CLEP, while not as well-known as AP, is a 50-year-old credit-by-examination program accepted by more than 2,900 schools and universities. Check to see if the colleges you are considering accept CLEP credit, and then work hard to succeed on one or more of the 32 CLEP exams. CLEP courses and exams are rigorous, but shorter and not as challenging as AP.

- Consider new programs such as "Freshman Year for Free," an initiative developed by Modern States Education Alliance, a charity dedicated to making a college degree more affordable and attainable for everyone. Students can use Modern States' 40+ tuition-free online courses -- all taught by top college professors -- to prepare for the AP and CLEP exams.

- One advantage of CLEP tests is that they are offered every day at thousands of testing centers. AP exams can only be taken in high schools in May. Modern States is paying the AP and CLEP exam fees for the first 10,000 test-takers, making the program, which also includes free textbooks and practice questions, totally free.

"This is a great on-ramp to college and an opportunity to save both time and up to 25 percent of the rising cost of a degree," says Steve Klinsky, founder and CEO of Modern States Education Alliance.

To learn more, visit modernstates.org.

- Attending community college for the first two years and then transferring to a four-year institution offers another opportunity to cut costs. Dual-enrollment programs, whereby students take college courses at a city or community college while still in high school, are another great way to head to college with some credits under your belt.

More than one-third of Americans ages 30 and younger who haven't attended college

attribute their decision to the high cost, according to a Federal Reserve survey. In fact, U.S. student loan debt stands at an all-time high of \$1.34 trillion. Don't miss out on an education or let it saddle you with debt. Seek out alternative methods for earning college credits.

Video sparks conversation about food, farming

When it comes to food, information can be overwhelming. That's why Coke County farmers and ranchers want to have a discussion about the food, fiber and fuel that gets its start on their farms and ranches.

"There's quite a bit of inaccurate information on the internet," John Ross Copeland, Coke County Farm Bureau president, said. "If you want the truth, just ask a farmer or rancher like myself. We'll be happy to talk about our farming methods." Texas Farm Bureau recently launched a new three-minute video, *Our Food: We're in this Together*.

The video highlights farmers and ranchers from across the state talking about farming and ranching. It's an effort to connect with consumers online, said.

"You can find the video on our Coke/Sterling County Facebook page," John Ross said. "We wanted to share that modern farming and ranching is sustainable. Modern farms are just bigger and more technologically advanced."

But some consumers believe big means bad when it comes to agriculture. John Ross said that's not the case.

"It doesn't matter if our farm is small or large. It doesn't matter if we're using conventional methods or organic practices," John Ross said. "We're all doing our best to provide for consumers and for our families. There is room for everyone in the

marketplace."

Noted marketing tactics are often designed to spread fear and misinformation.

"When it comes to food, let facts be your guide," John Ross said. "The food we grow is safe and wholesome. We eat the same food that we're growing for others. We wouldn't feed something to consumers that we wouldn't feed to our kids."

The video also touches on the farm bill. It explains that the farm bill is for more than farmers and ranchers. It strengthens communities, opens trade doors and helps ensure safe, affordable food for all Americans, John Ross said.

"We depend on a strong agricultural economy. As farmers and ranchers, we need some stability and the farm bill provides that," John Ross said. "But the farm bill is about more than agriculture. It's a food bill, too. It helps keep food on our tables and helps our farmers when markets or Mother Nature can deal devastating blows."

You can find more information and watch the video at texasfarmbureau.org/our-food.

The Great Texas Birding Classic held April 15 - May 15

The 22nd Annual Great Texas Birding Classic will be held April 15 - May 15, 2018. This tournament is the world's

biggest, longest, wildest birdwatching tournament in the United States.

The competition is held to determine which team can identify and count the most birds in a weeklong event. Birding teams from all over the country flock to several birding hot spots all over Texas to participate in the Great Texas Birding Classic. All levels and ages of birders are welcome to join this event during the amazing spring migration. The Youth category is for kids 13 and younger while the Teen category is for 14 - 18 year olds. Youth teams are made up of 3 - 5 birders, and must choose a category in which to compete. Prizes are awarded to the winning teams. Registration fees raise money for Texas bird and birding conservation project grants.

Here's what you need to start preparing to compete:

- binoculars (unless they are landing right in front of you, binoculars help you see the birds)
- field guide to birds (because you will need to look some of them up)
- small notepad or journal (you will want to keep a list, since that's what the contest is all about)
- a hat (if you are lucky it will be sunny and 8 hours is a long time to hang out in the sun without a hat - if you aren't lucky, the hat may help a little)

Team registration closes April 1, 2018, and the Conservation Project Grant submission deadline is May 1, 2018.

For more information, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife website at tpwd.texas.gov.

Happy birding!

Citizens of Coke County, Precinct 2

I sincerely appreciate your support and your vote.

Thank you sincerely,
Robert Feil

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Thank you to all who supported me and voted for me in the Republican Primary.

Russell Johnson

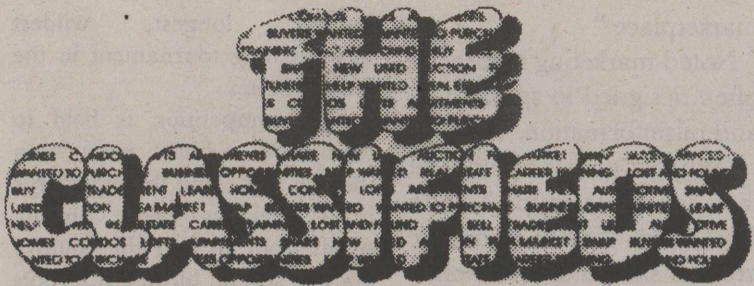
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Political Calendar
 The Observer/Enterprise had been authorized to make the following announcements for the political offices in Coke County. Each candidate or the campaign treasurer has paid for his or her announcement.

Justice of the Peace Precinct 1
 Russell Johnson
 Jackie Walker

County Judge
 Hal Spain
 Sherry Davidson

County Treasurer
 Therese Emert

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 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 a 1.5 hour drive to the Metroplex.

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 FOR SALE - 564 Lake Cove Addition, Robert, Lee, Texas.
 FOR SALE - 112 W. 12th Street, Robert Lee, Texas. 3BR/2B home, 1800 sq. ft. Living Area, Central Heat and Air, Hardwood Floors, Attached Garage, Large Patio and Backyard, Storage Building. Close to the school!
 FOR SALE - 224 Riley Street, Bronte, Texas. Good Starter Home! Close to the school!
 FOR SALE - 1120 acres, southwest of Robert Lee, Texas. Good ranch land with good hunting for deer, turkey, dove, and quail. Easy access, electricity, wells, and surface tanks.
 FOR SALE - 201 acres, close to Robert Lee, Texas. Good hunting with highway frontage and a creek running through the property.

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 (formerly the blouse factory) in Bronte.

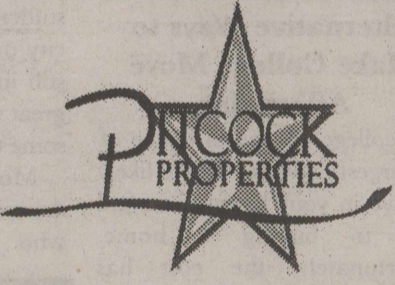

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Time for Financial "Spring Cleaning"

The days are longer and the temperatures are warmer – so it must be spring. For many of us, that means it's time for some spring cleaning. But why stop with sprucing up your living space? This year, consider extending the "spring cleaning" concept to your financial environment, too.

How can you tidy your finances? Here are some suggestions:

"De-clutter" your portfolio. As you go through your home during your spring cleaning rounds, you may notice that you've acquired a lot of duplicate objects – do you really need five mops? – or at least some things you can no longer use, like a computer that hasn't worked since 2010. You can create some valuable space by getting rid of these items. And the same principle can apply to your investment portfolio, because over the years you may well have acquired duplicate investments that aren't really helping you move toward your goals. You may also own some investments, which, while initially fitting in to your overall strategy, no longer do so. You could be better off by selling your "redundant" investments and using the proceeds to purchase new ones that will provide more value.

Get organized. During your spring cleaning, one of your key goals may be to get organized. So you might want to rearrange the tools in your garage or establish a new filing system in your home office. Proper organization is also important to investors – and it goes beyond having your brokerage and 401(k) statements in nice neat piles. For example, you may have established IRAs with different financial services companies. By moving them to one provider, you may save some fees and reduce your paperwork, but, more important, you may find that such a move actually helps you better manage your investments. You'll know exactly where your money is going, and it could be easier to follow a single investment strategy. Also, with all your IRAs in one place, it will be much easier for you to manage the required minimum distributions you must start taking when you turn 70-1/2. (These distributions are not required for Roth IRAs.)

Protect your family's financial future. When cleaning up this spring, you may notice areas of concern around protecting your home – perhaps there's a crack in your window, or your fence is damaged or part of your chimney is crumbling. Your financial independence – and that of your family – also needs protection. Is your life insurance sufficient to pay for your mortgage, college for your kids and perhaps some retirement funds for your spouse? Do you have disability insurance that can provide you with some income if you become ill or injured and can't work for a

while? Have you considered the high costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay? A financial professional can help you determine if your insurance coverage is adequate for all these needs.

Consider putting these spring cleaning suggestions to work. They may help you keep your financial house in good shape for all the seasons yet to arrive.

This article is courtesy of Edward Jones.

Registration ends March 23 for spring Ranch Management University

By Jessica Domel

Whether you're new to ranching or a longtime landowner, there's something for everyone in the spring session of Ranch Management University.

The weeklong, intensive course is slated for April 2-6 in College Station.

"We try to cover everything there is," Matt Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service program specialist, said in an interview with the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) Radio Network. "We do soil chemistry, soil

fertility and an introduction to soils. We branch out from there, and we bring in animal science specialists. We talk about beef cattle. We talk about breeds, stocking rates and nutrition for livestock."

Grazing management, wildlife management, pond management and basic livestock management practices – like castrating and vaccinating calves – will also be discussed.

The course will also include demonstrations on how-to sample soils, plant, calibrate sprayers and inoculate legume seed.

Ranch Management University is held twice a year and is capped at 55 participants to allow plenty of interaction.

Cost is \$500 and includes meals, snacks and a workbook with all presentations.

"Just right off the bat, they have a huge book with tons of information, and then hundreds of publications, digitally, on a flash drive. Not to mention, all of our contact information is included. So, if they come up with a question somewhere down the road, we're that resource. They're more than

welcome to email and call us anytime," Brown said. "We will do our best to answer that question."

The course begins at 12:20 p.m. April 2 and concludes at noon April 6.

"I know it can sound like it's pretty well tailored to the beginning landowner, the true novice, but we've actually started having a few international attendees coming from all over. We're getting feedback from people who have been in

ranching, livestock, hay production and wildlife for generations. They're coming to try to learn different practices and ways to improve their operation," Brown said. "You don't have to just be a beginning (rancher) or novice to come. Everybody seems to be getting something out of this."

Online registration can be done at <https://agriferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/2490> and ends March 23.

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Organizations encouraged to apply for 2018 Summer Nutrition Programs

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller today announced the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is accepting applications for its 2018 summer nutrition programs. These programs connect community organizations and schools with federal funds to provide healthy meals for the Texas children who may not always have access to good nutrition when school cafeterias are closed for summer.

"TDA and our partner organizations help ensure the end of school does not mean the start of hunger for some Texas children," Commissioner Miller said. "Together, we work to strengthen communities across Texas by serving children the meals they need for an active, healthy summer. I encourage any eligible organization to join us in the effort to help promote good nutrition this summer so more Texas children can return to school in the fall ready to thrive."

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), more than 14 percent of Texas households are considered food insecure, meaning every member of the household does not have consistent access to good nutrition. In partnership with USDA, TDA administers federally funded programs to help address childhood hunger during the summer. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides schools, nonprofit summer camps, governmental entities and other nonprofit organizations such as churches with the opportunity to serve meals to children across Texas. Schools have the option of participating in the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) or SFSP, allowing them to continue meal service after the academic year ends.

Organizations partner with TDA to serve meals at sites in designated areas, such as areas where more than 50 percent of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program. Meals will be provided to individuals age 18 and under without charge, as well as adults over the age of 18 who are determined by a state educational agency or local public educational agency of a state to have a mental or physical disability and who participate in a public or nonprofit private school program established for people with mental or physical disabilities.

All meal sites must be sponsored by an organization that has a contract with TDA. Approved SSO and SFSP sponsors, operating in accordance with federal and state regulations, will be reimbursed for meals served to children. All new sponsors are required to take training courses

before participating in the SFSP. Some applications may require additional review, and sponsors are encouraged to visit www.summerfood.org to determine if their organization falls into this category. The SFSP application deadline for new sponsors and those requiring more thorough review is April 15, 2018. All other returning SFSP sponsors must apply by May 1, 2018. The deadline for all SSO applications is May 31, 2018.

For more information about TDA's Summer Nutrition Programs, visit www.summerfood.org.

Patience Key for Spring Turkey Season

Patience as much as skill will be tested during the opening days of this year's spring turkey season, as Texas hunters may be forced to wait out the natural pecking order to get a gobbler's attention.

According to biologists with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), recent field observations suggest hens are slowly becoming receptive, and breeding activity should be peaking over the next few weeks.

"Things are changing daily as gobblers are strutting and hens are slowly becoming receptive," said Jason Hardin, TPWD Upland Game Bird Program

specialist. "That means many hens could become interested in breeding near opening day of the season, effectively hampering a hunter's chances of luring love-struck gobblers. If you do go early in the season some of the best hunting could be mid-day after hens split off from toms.

"By week three most hens should be bred and hunting should be good from the time the toms leave the roost until they go back up for the night," he noted. "Also, if conditions remain mild and if we get a few more timely rain events, Texas can expect another good year of nesting and populations growth."

Biologists report habitat conditions in South Texas are shaping up in a hurry. There has been enough rain to green up the landscape with bluebonnets, wine cups, and other flowers popping up quickly. As for the rest of the state, the landscape should follow suit week-by-week moving northward. One region of concern is the Rolling Plains, where the landscape is very dry with limited rain in the last six months.

The spring season for Rio Grande turkey general season runs March 17 - April 29 and culminates with a youth-only weekend May 5 - 6. In the North Zone, the youth-only weekend seasons are March 24 - 25 and May 19 - 20. The North

Zone general season opened March 31 and runs through May 13. A special one-gobbler limit season runs April 1 - 30 in Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, Fayette, Jackson, Lavaca, Lee, Matagorda, Milam, and Wharton counties.

Eastern spring turkey hunting in the counties having an open season is April 15 - May 14. Hunters are required to report harvest of eastern turkeys electronically to TPWD within 24 hours of harvest. Reports can be made through the TPWD My Texas Hunt Harvest App or online from the TPWD turkey

page at www.tpwd.texas.gov/ turkey. The app is available for free download from Google Play or the App Store. Hunters will be issued a confirmation number upon completion of the reporting process. Hunters still have to tag harvested birds.

The harvest reporting app can also be used as a tool for voluntarily reporting and tracking harvests of other resident game species, including Rio Grande turkey. With My Texas Hunt Harvest, hunters can log harvested game animals and view harvest history, including dates and locations of every hunt.

Thank you so much for your participation as voters in our recent primary elections.

Regardless of whom you supported, it is your continued interest, support, and active participation in our electoral system that keeps our democracy strong.

Hal Spain
 Republican Nominee
 for Coke County Judge

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Hal Spain, PO Box 975, Robert Lee, Texas 76945

My sincere thanks for your support and vote.

I appreciate it more than you know.

Congratulations to Russell Johnson!

Thank you,
Jackie Walker
 Coke County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1

Paid Political Advertisement by Jackie Walker

I want to take this opportunity to thank all who supported and voted for me in the Republican Primary.

I will appreciate your continued support and vote in the run-off election in May.

Paul Williams
 Commissioner, Precinct 2

Paid Political Advertisement by Paul Williams

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