

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Beth Prather 3/1/00
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Friday, December 14, 2018

Christmas in Olde Bronte set for Saturday

Christmas in Olde Bronte will be held Saturday, December 15, beginning with a parade at 10 am. Vendors will be set up from 10 am until 3 pm in downtown Bronte and the Cookie Crawl will be held from 11 am - 1 pm. A Fish Fry is set for the Texas Theater from 11:30 am until 1 pm and Mrs. Claus will host Story Time at the bank at 1 pm. Head on over to the Quilt Shop at 2 pm to get a photo with Santa and then settle in for a movie at the Texas Theater at 3 pm. Awards will follow at the theater at 4:15 pm and then the Bronte Longhorn Band will perform their Christmas Concert at 5 pm. The music doesn't stop there though as the Alvarado Road Show concert will start at 6 pm.

Other events taking place throughout the day include an essay contest, Gingerbread House competition, funnel cakes by the Bronte Volunteer Fire Department, cocoa and eggnog bar, kids crafts, and more!

Angel Tree available in Robert Lee

It is once again that time of year! Folks will have the opportunity to ensure the children of Robert Lee will have gifts under their Christmas trees. Angels became available for selection at DJ's Merle Norman Friday, December 7, during Christmas Open House.

As in year's past, both boy and girl angels will be placed on the tree with "wishes" listed on the back of each angel. Wrapped gifts should be returned to DJ's Merle Norman no later than Monday, December 17.

In addition to the little angels,



Small Town Christmas! Santa Claus rolled into Robert Lee last Saturday evening to open Robert Lee's annual Christmas celebration "Small Town Christmas". The event, hosted each year by Robert Lee Vision with a Purpose, drew many small children, their parents and grandparents to enjoy the delicious food and enjoy the lights and decorations. Diane Hefner is shown assisting Santa Claus (aka Anthony Lopez).

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Friday, December 14

High School Basketball -
Blackwell Girls vs Sweetwater at Blackwell, 5 pm
Bronte Girls at Robert Lee, 5 pm
Bronte Boys at Bangs, 7:30 pm
Robert Lee Boys vs Lometa at Robert Lee, 4 pm

Saturday, December 15

Christmas in Olde Bronte, 10 am,
Downtown Bronte

Monday, December 17

Junior High Basketball -
Bronte vs Cornerstone at Bronte, 5 pm
Robert Lee at Water Valley, 6 pm

Bronte Evening Lions Club Meeting, 7 pm,
First United Methodist Church, Bronte

Tuesday, December 18

High School Basketball -
Bronte vs Highland at Bronte, 5 pm
JV and Varsity Girls, Varsity Boys
Robert Lee at Veribest, 4 pm,
JV and Varsity Girls, JV and Varsity Boys
Blackwell vs Sterling City at Blackwell, 4 pm

Wednesday, December 19

Robert Lee ISD Talent Show, 6 pm,
RLISD Cafetorium

Thursday, December 20

Blackwell FFA Rabies Clinic, 4 pm - 6 pm,
Blackwell ISD

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

Friday, December 21

Early Release -
Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell ISD

High School Basketball -
Bronte vs Veribest at Bronte, 5 pm,
JV and Varsity Girls, Varsity Boys
Robert Lee vs Water Valley at Robert Lee, 4 pm,
JV and Varsity Girls, JV and Varsity Boys
Blackwell at Irion County, 5 pm

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By



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"Silver branches" have been added to the tree this year. Monetary donations of any amount may be made to ensure Robert Lee's senior citizens have a Merry Christmas as well.

Any questions regarding the Angel Tree or Silver Branches may be directed to DJ's Merle Norman, Debbie McCabe, Kaye Pitcock, Linda Burns, or Jo Nell Blair.

Early deadlines announced

It is time once again for the annual Christmas Greetings and the Year in Review issues! The *Observer/Enterprise* would like to remind businesses and individuals wishing to place a Christmas greeting in the newspaper to call and choose your greeting for the December 21 issue. Deadline for this year's greetings is Friday, December 14, at 12 noon.

The annual Year in Review issue will be published December 28. The deadline for current news and ads for this issue is Monday, December 17, at 12 noon.

The first issue of 2019 will be published January 4. Due to

New Year's Day, the deadline for this issue is set for Friday, December 28, at 5 pm.

The offices of The Observer/Enterprise will be closed for the holidays (Holy Days) beginning Friday, December 21. We will reopen Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

Although the office will be closed, You can call us at (325)

453-2433 to let us know you dropped your news item at Shirley's Place in Bronte or left it in the box on the front of The Observer/Enterprise office in Robert Lee. You can always reach us by email at ObserverEnterprise@gmail.com. We wish all of our readers the very best of this Holy Day season.

Coke County Christmas

Saturday, December 15

Christmas in Olde Bronte in Downtown Bronte

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Morgan McCutchen Brigham, Editor

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

Obituaries



Robertson

Mary Belle McKinley Robertson was born in Wichita Falls, Texas, on November 17, 1928, the only child of Herbert E. McKinley and Oleta Goad McKinley. She passed away at home on Sunday, December 2, 2018, in Midland, Texas, at the age of 90.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 42 years Clifford Durwood Robertson, daughters, Janet Kay Martinez and Toni Ann Williams, and granddaughter, Shelly Rancee Hall.

She is survived by son, Clifford H. Robertson (Francine) of Melissa, Texas, daughter, Fonda J. Hall (Bobby) of Waukomis, Oklahoma, daughter, Rita R. Woods (Don) of Midland, Texas, sons-in-law, Michael A. Martinez of San Antonio, Texas, and William Williams of Cape Elizabeth, Maine 14 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Mary lived in various Texas towns throughout her childhood due to her father's work in the oil field. She graduated from White Oak High School in Longview, Texas, and attended North Texas State University, where she met her husband. Throughout their marriage, Mary and Cliff lived in Odessa, Texas, Columbus, Texas, Hobbs, New Mexico, and Lindsay, Oklahoma. After raising 5 children, she worked in bookkeeping at the College of the Southwest in Hobbs, New Mexico. Following her

husband's death, she moved to Midland in 1992.

Even though she was known to be a very quiet person, she had a great sense of humor and, to her delight, was constantly teased by her sons-in-law and grandkids. She was known for loving hot peppers and never met a donut she didn't like. She loved bunko and the friends she made there.

The family would like to thank caregivers, Tanyesha and Rashika from Crossland Care, for the special care they gave Mary in her last days. Many thanks to church family and friends for their prayers and support.

A visitation was held at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home on Thursday, December 13, 2018, from 6 pm to 8 pm, followed by graveside services and burial in Robert Lee, Texas on Friday, December 14, 2018, at 1 pm at the Robert Lee Cemetery. Services will be officiated by Reverend James Robertson, Sr.

Arrangements were under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences may be made at <http://www.npwelch.com>
23-1tc



Remembering the Reason for the Season! This beautiful Nativity Scene at the Mini Park in downtown Bronte helps everyone remember the reason for the season during all the busy holiday activities.

VP hosts Open House

Vision With A Purpose opened its doors to the community Friday, December 7, at the Robert Lee Open House. In spite of the inclement weather, many brave souls came to admire and enjoy refreshments at their headquarters at 701 Austin St. Under president Nancy Wilson's direction, the building looked spectacular. Many compliments were given and those who remembered the "before" were very impressed. This Event Center is available for rental. If interested, contact any VP member.

VP hosts Small Town Christmas

Vision With A Purpose opened Small Town Christmas with the arrival of Santa by fire truck at 5 pm. Children lined up

at the Gazebo to tell Santa their wishes and get their picture taken and receive a present.

Street carts were set up outside selling hot chocolate, popcorn and candy apples. Inside, sugared pecans were available and the Senior Center was selling homemade ornaments. At dusk, the park Christmas lights were turned on and will remain on through the holiday season. Also outside, a trailer boutique was selling clothing.

Stew, chili, cornbread and gingerbread men were for sale under the supervision of Noel and Clark Tinkler.

Raffle ticket sign-up was available to those wanting to win a large flat screen TV. The winner was Robin Grindel of Woodlands, Texas.

The lighting contest for businesses and residents will close Saturday, December 15. Monetary prizes will be awarded to residents and a light-up metal

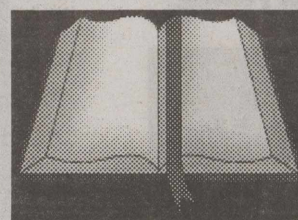
Area Churches

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 Bewly
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. Everett 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.pecanbaptistchurchrl.com
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
11 am & 7 pm, Worship



Robert Lee
Bible Baptist Church
PO Box 938 • 9th & Austin
Robert Lee, Brandon Broadbent, Pastor
Sun. 10 am Sunday School, 11 am
Worship, Wed 5:30 pm Bible Study
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
Chris Walls, 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,

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Our office will be closed December 21, 2018,
through January 1, 2019, to allow
our employees the opportunity to enjoy
the holidays with their families.

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at
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Christmas figure will be awarded to a business. There is no charge to enter. Sign-up is available at Floyd C. Pettit Insurance in downtown Robert Lee.

Hayrides took riders around Robert Lee to see the beautiful lights at various homes and locations. Marshall Millican and Jason Moran drove the hay wagon.

Each year, VP, along with help from community workers, puts on this event and each year, it gets bigger and better. A big shout-out to all those involved and to all who came out to enjoy. It takes a village.

Robert Lee posts council minutes

[Editor's Note: The following minutes, as are all government entity minutes posted in The Observer/Enterprise, are reformatted. The content of the minutes is not changed or editorialized.]

The Robert Lee City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 15, 2018, at 6 pm.

Those present included Mayor Allyson Greshaw, Mayor Pro Tem Roger C. Alexander Jr., Council Member Ricky Green, Council Member Ann Hedges, and Council Member Janie Munoz.

Council Member Brandi Brosh was absent, however a quorum confirmed.

The invocation was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Roger C. Alexander Jr. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

ShannonOnDemand.com was discussed. This service provides 24/7 access to talk to a doctor for minor medical needs with no appointment. Access is private, secure, fast and easy from mobile device or computer. \$59 per visit. Minor medical healthcare needs include: Bronchitis, Cough, Sinus Infection, Sore Throat, Urinary Tract Infection, Vomiting, Diarrhea, Fever, Pinkeye, Flu, Sprains and strains, Cold, Respiratory Infection, and Headache.

There were no citizen comments.

Consent Agenda

A. Minutes - September 10, 2018 Regular City Council Meeting

B. Financial Reports
1. Statement Report
2. Council Approval Report
C. Ordinance Enforcement Report

D. Animal Control Report

E. Repeal Ordinance #1156 Drought Contingency (Replaced by 1248)

F. Ordinance - Landfill Road Name change to Red Canyon Road

Roger C. Alexander, Jr. requested to remove Item B from the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Roger C. Alexander Jr. to approve of Consent Agenda Items A, C, D, E, and F; and was seconded by Council Member Ricky Green. Vote 4-0; Motion carried

Financial Reports

The Council had questions

and wanted to better understand the following items:

Budget amendments are required to be done within the appropriate fiscal year; because the deadline was missed, there will not be a final budget amendment for FY 2017-18.

Sanitation Fund Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures on the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures is in the amount - \$9,963.59. Trash Receipts are in the amount \$141,514.53 with Trash Service expense in the amount \$157,452.91. Citizens were receiving trash services but were not being billed appropriately. Convenience Center expenses for roll-off containers have also been used more frequently. Citizens outside of city limits have been utilizing the Convenience Center at the citizens of Robert Lee's expense. Transfer of funds have not been done throughout FY 2016-17 or the beginning half of FY 2017-18; The transfer deposits will likely put Sanitation into the "black".

Council requests to see Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for full months. Current month is only partial due to council meeting in the middle of the month.

Water Department staff is looking into the 420,000 gallons of water loss, per the Monthly Billing Report, between Bronte and Robert Lee's meter.

The Happy Porch invoice in the amount \$252.00 is uniform t-shirts & sweatshirts for City Water Department staff.

Council Approval Report does not update the YTD Balance until invoices are posted to the account.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Roger C. Alexander Jr. to approve of Consent Agenda Item B; and was seconded by Council Member Janie Munoz. Vote 4-0; Motion carried

A motion carried from the September 10, 2018, City Council meeting to amend citizens' trash rates with a 25% increase from what Republic Services charges the City resulted in rates reduced from what was currently being charged.

96-Gallon Cart - Current \$17.15, Approved \$17.73

Extra Cart - Current \$10.69, Approved \$13.75

Outside City Limits -Current \$18.43, Approved \$19.05

3yd (1xweek) - Current \$51.34, Approved \$61.43

Del/Rem 96-Gallon Cart - Current \$0.00, Approved \$30.00

Del/Rem 3yd - Current \$40.00, Approved \$50.00.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Roger C. Alexander Jr., to approve 2nd Reading of the Trash Ordinance rate increase and was seconded by Council Member Ricky Green. Vote 3-1; Council Member Ann Hedges opposed; Motion carried

A recent situation with a citizen made it clear that Ordinance #1110 (Nuisance Amendment) should be clarified and updated following current State law. There has been some confusion regarding responsibility of mowing the City's Easement, defined as rights to the use of others' property for limited purposes.



Small Town Christmas! Beverly Hawkins, manning the popcorn stand, was one of the first to greet visitors to Robert Lee's Small Town Christmas celebration last Saturday evening, December 8, 2018. The annual event is held each year in downtown Robert Lee and is hosted by Vision with a Purpose.

Property owners own their entire property; the City does not own the right of way access or the streets. Most alleyways are already mowed by property owners. The slight wording change is proposed to reduce confusion:

Ordinance No. 1110, B, Section 3(a) with the following:

(a) You are required to maintain your property so as to keep grass, brush and weeds (all the way to the roadway) at a height of less than twelve (12) inches, including your half of an alleyway (if applicable) immediately next to your property;

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Roger C. Alexander Jr., to approve of amending the Nuisance Ordinance; and was seconded by Council Member Janie Munoz. Vote 4-0; Motion carried

It was proposed to establish a records management program, policies and procedures consistent with the Local Government Records Act, designate a Records Management Officer and repeal Ordinance No. 1015 (previous record retention ordinance).

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Roger C. Alexander Jr., to approve of the Record Retention Ordinance; and was seconded by Council Member Ann Hedges. Vote 4-0; Motion carried

It was proposed to amend Ordinance No. 1199 (Water Rate), Section 2: Truck Water from \$0.20 per barrel to \$0.25 per barrel or \$5.95 per thousand gallons and to repeal all past Water Ordinances.

A motion was made by Council Member Janie Munoz to approve of amending the Water Ordinance with the bulk water rate increase; and was seconded by Council Member Ricky Green. Vote 4-0 Motion carried

The City of Robert Lee received a letter dated September 14, 2018, from the Coke County Water Supply Corporation stating: enclosed you will find our full payment of \$7,609.73 for

the September water bill. From this point forward, we will pay the \$3.83 per thousand for water only. No additional fees will be paid. Regards, The CCWSC Board of Directors. Issues include the water bill and the contract between City of Robert Lee and CCWSC. The CCWSC is refusing to pay Capital Improvement and Water Debt Service expenses in the amount \$1,302.91. These charges began in 2009 and have not changed since that time

Capital Improvement - \$1.25 x 207 residents = \$258.75

Water Debt Service - \$5.02 x 207 residents = \$1044.16

Residents of Robert Lee are

invoiced the same \$5.02 and \$1.25 fees.

The contract with CCWSC expired September 20, 2016. Mayor Allyson Greshaw has e-mailed, spoken with, and met with CCWSC representatives repeatedly, including attending one of their board meetings.

In regards to the contract, CCWSC stated they agree to pay \$4.00 per thousand gallons of water usage with an \$800.00 per month surcharge. If rates increase with the City of Bronte, CCWSC agrees to increase the rates per thousand on their invoice. Council wants to continue to charge Capital Improvement and water debt.

(Continued on page 6)

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SCHOOL PAGE

Three Lady Longhorns chosen All State

Bronte, Lady Longhorns Cassidy McWright, Bryton Percy, and Kristen Stilley were among the 40 Texas volleyball players in division 1A be chosen as All State. All three Lady Horns are Seniors this year.

Athletes are nominated by member coaches and the head varsity coach of the sport and school must be a member of Texas Girls Coaching Association in good standing before November 1, to be selected. Selections are made by the TGCA Volleyball All-State Committee at the UIL state volleyball tournament.

Talent Show set for December 19

"Robert Lee's Got Talent!", the first annual Robert Lee Talent Show, will be held at 6 pm Wednesday, December 19, 2018, at the Robert Lee ISD Cafetorium.

Robert Lee Elementary Awards Assembly set for December 21

Robert Lee Independent School District will hold an Awards Ceremony Friday, December 21, 2018, to recognize students in Grades 2-6 who placed in events at the District UIL Academic Meet this month at Irion County.

The ceremony will be held at 9:30 am in the RLISD cafetorium. All parents and family members are encouraged to attend. There will be an early release of 12:30 on that day. Please call the Elementary Office at 453-4555 if you have any questions.

The Closet opens at Robert Lee ISD

The Closet is a new program at Robert Lee ISD to serve underprivileged students. The community is urged to help provide necessities by donating to this new program. Your contribution can be monetary or through donations of the following items - new or like new jackets and coats, gloves, toboggans and beanies, new or like new athletic or tennis shoes, new socks, and personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste).

Monetary donations will be collected at the Robert Lee ISD Administration office only. Other donations may be dropped off at Robert Lee City Hall, Coke County Extension and 4-H office, and First United Methodist Church.

For more information, call Shaunna Grantham at (325) 895-1723 or RLISD at (325) 453-4555.



Blackwell Beta Club Honored! For the second time in three years, Blackwell CISD has been recognized as a National Beta Club School of Distinction. Blackwell Beta Club Members include Brendan Scott (bottom row, from left), Emily Rasco, Carli Powers, Claider Cruz, Victoria Davis, Tori Scott, Grant Gott; (top row, from left) Sponsor Thomas Davis, Katelyn Robertson, Emilee Sanderson, Elizabeth Meyer, Haylee Cason and Madison Solis. National Beta is the nation's largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization. They promote and recognize high academic achievement.

School Menu

Robert Lee ISD

Breakfast

Monday, December 17
Sausage Biscuit, fruit, juice, milk

Tuesday, December 18
Breakfast Combo, fruit, juice, milk

Wednesday, December 19
Chicken 'N Waffles, fruit, juice, milk

Thursday, December 20
Pancakes, Sausage, fruit, juice, milk

Friday, December 21
Dutch Waffle, Bacon, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch

Monday, December 17

Texas Basket, Fries, Veggie Cup, mixed fruit, milk

Tuesday, December 18
Chicken Fajitas, beans, tomato cup, salsa, peaches, garnish, milk

Wednesday, December 19
Pizza Pocket, Tuscan veggies, garden salad, cinnamon apples, cookie, milk

Thursday, December 20
Ranchero Wrap, broccoli, veggie cup, snowball salad, milk

Friday, December 21
Chicken Bowl, mashed tators, green beans, roll, apples, milk

Bronte ISD

Breakfast

Monday, December 17
Pizza or choice of cereal and toast, juice, milk

Tuesday, December 18
Donuts or choice of cereal and toast, juice, milk

Wednesday, December 19
PB&J or choice of cereal and toast, juice, milk

Thursday, December 20
Tornado or choice of cereal and toast, juice, milk

Friday, December 21
Biscuit and sausage or choice of cereal and toast, juice, milk

Lunch

Monday, December 17
Country Steak, mashed potatoes, okra, roll, gravy, strawberries, milk

Tuesday, December 18
Chicken Spaghetti, breadstick, garden salad, carrots, apple sauce, milk

Wednesday, December 19
Meat Chalupas, zesty cucumbers, beans, salsa, orange smiles, milk

Thursday, December 20
Chicken Tenders, toast, gravy, sweet potato fries, broccoli, mixed fruit, milk

Friday, December 21

Hamburgers, coleslaw, ranch beans, pears, milk

Blackwell CISD

Breakfast

Monday, December 17
Pancakes, bacon, fruit, juice, milk

Tuesday, December 18
Biscuit-n-gravy, fruit, juice, milk

Wednesday, December 19
Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk

Thursday, December 20
Breakfast Burrito, fruit, juice, milk

Friday, December 21
Poptarts, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch

(Continued on page 8)

Merry Christmas



Larry M Gilbert, AAMS*
Financial Advisor

122 N 8th St
Ballinger, TX 76821
325-365-2505

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Blackwell High School Basketball Schedule

December 14	Sweetwater	Blackwell	JVG/VG	5:00/6:30
December 18	Sterling City	Blackwell	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00/5:00/6:15/7:30
December 21	Irion County	Irion County	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	5:00/5:00/6:15/7:30
January 4	Robert Lee	Blackwell	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00/5:00/6:15/7:30
January 8	Bronte	Bronte	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	5:00/5:00/6:15/7:30
January 11	Veribest	Blackwell	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00/5:00/6:15/7:30
January 15	Water Valley	Blackwell	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	5:00/5:00/6:15/7:30
January 18	Open			
January 22	Sterling City	Sterling City	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00/5:00/6:15/7:30
January 25	Irion County	Blackwell	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00/5:00/6:15/7:30
January 29	Robert Lee	Robert Lee	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00/5:00/6:15/7:30
February 1	Bronte	Blackwell	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00/5:00/6:15/7:30
February 5	Veribest	Veribest	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00/5:00/6:15/7:30
February 8	Water Valley	Blackwell	JVB/VB	5:00/6:15



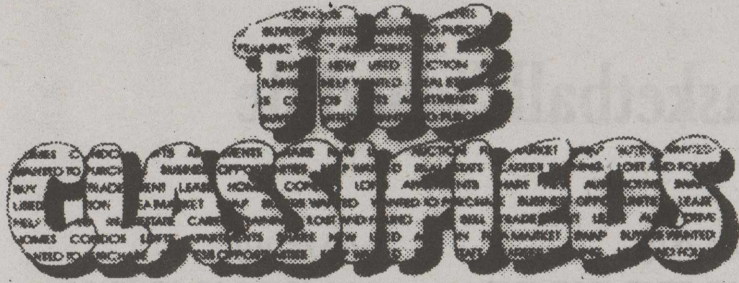
Bronte High School Basketball Schedule

December 14	Robert Lee	Robert Lee	JVG/VG	5:00
	Bangs	Bangs	VB	7:30
December 18	Highland	Bronte	JVG/VG/VB	5:00
December 21	Veribest	Bronte	JVG/VG/VB	5:00
December 27-28	Eden Tournament	Eden	VG	TBA
January 4	Water Valley	Water Valley	JVG/VG/VB	5:00
January 8	Blackwell	Bronte	JVG/VG/VB	5:00
January 11	Sterling City	Sterling City	VG/VB	6:30
January 15	Irion County	Irion County	JVG/VG/VB	5:00
January 17	Robert Lee	Bronte	JVG/VG/VB	5:00
January 22	Open			
January 25	Veribest	Veribest	JVG/VG/VB	5:00
January 29	Water Valley	Bronte	JVG/VG/VB	5:00
February 1	Blackwell	Blackwell	JVG/VG/VB	5:00
February 5	Sterling City	Bronte	VG/VB	6:30
February 8	Irion County	Bronte	VB	6:00
February 12	Robert Lee	Robert Lee	VB	6:00



Robert Lee High School Basketball Schedule

December 14	Lometa	Robert Lee	JVB/VB	4:00
	Bronte	Robert Lee	JVG/VG	4:00
December 18	Veribest	Veribest	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00
December 21	Water Valley	Robert Lee	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00
December 28-29	Eden Tournament	Eden	VG/VB	TBA
January 4	Blackwell	Blackwell	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00
January 8	Sterling City	Robert Lee	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00
January 11	Irion County	Irion County	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00
January 17	Bronte	Bronte	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	5:00
January 22	Veribest	Robert Lee	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00
January 25	Water Valley	Water Valley	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00
January 29	Blackwell	Robert Lee	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00
February 1	Sterling City	Sterling City	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	5:00
February 5	Irion County	Robert Lee	JVG/JVB/VG/VB	4:00
February 12	Bronte	Robert Lee	JVB/VB	6:00



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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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03-tnp

... RL Council Minutes

(Continued from page 3)

Mayor Crenshaw and CCWSC President Blake Pitcock will meet at a future date to further negotiate contract.

City policy is to disconnect utility services for nonpayment.

There was discussion only and no action was taken.

Citizens are upset requesting social security numbers on the new utility application. There was discussion only and no action was taken.

Delinquent accounts to collections are in the amount of \$7,878.95.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Roger C. Alexander Jr., to approve sending accounts to collections; and was seconded by Council Member Ann Hedges. Vote 4-0; Motion carried.

Delinquent accounts to be written off due to lack of information are in the amount of \$6,986.99. These are unable to submit to collections due to no social security number.

A motion by Mayor Pro Tem Roger C. Alexander Jr., to approve writing off delinquent accounts due to insufficient information to send to collections; and was seconded by Council Member Janie Munoz. Vote 4-0; Motion carried.

No discussion was held and no action was taken on purchasing policy and forms. This will be discussed at next month's meetings.

FOR RENT

BRONTE MINI STORAGE

Has storage buildings for rent. 473-2221, 473-0409.

45-tnc

HELP WANTED

THE COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

is accepting applications for the following position at Lake Spence:

Park Maintenance Technician - Responsible for general maintenance of park and facilities. Entry to intermediate level position.

For additional information, visit www.crmwd.org.

20-4tc

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ROBERT LEE is accepting applications for a part-time Operator. Pay based on experience. Application may be picked up at City Hall 6 East 7th Street, Robert Lee, Texas. Deadline to submit application is Dec 20th.

22-2tc

PART-TIME HELP WANTED

Counter and Warehouse help. Apply at Coke County Feed in Robert Lee.

23-3tc

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A 24-hour nursing and rehabilitation center is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

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2 positions available

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3 positions available

NIGHT NURSE
Full Time,
1 position available

Benefits include vacation, holiday, sick days, and insurance with pleasant work environment.

Interested applicants may apply in person M-F, 8am-5pm at 307 W. 8th St. Robert Lee, Texas EOE

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LOVELY SPACIOUS HOME IN ESTABLISHED NEIGHBORHOOD! New A/C and other updates include privacy fence, electrical, work, and fireplace. Survey available. Mature live oaks provide shade to large bldg. **SOLD!** Newly small town is currently enjoying a revitalization with emphasis on nearby park.

BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED & UPDATED HOME! Three bedroom, three bathroom family home on almost 2 acres with producing pecan trees! Home has been completely updated with new wiring, plumbing, **SOLD!** boring, paint, and so much more! Covered patio great for entertaining, huge workshop with electricity has plenty of storage potential, mature trees, and a privacy fence complete this large backyard! In-ground pool just waiting to be fixed up and filled!

LARGE HOME ON OVER 8 ACRES! Over 2,600 square feet in this home with large trees and many outbuildings on almost 9 acres just outside rural community. Completely updated kitchen and living area. Large utility room has space for crafting. Indoor sun porch on south side provides perfect place for plants. Lovely covered patio provides shade for evenings outdoors after a dip in the in ground pool. Room for kids, dogs, horses and other animals.

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

208 +/- Acres west of P... **Under Contract** s, wells, creek, stock pond, wildlife. Additional land and buil... adjacent to property. \$1,200/acre

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Citizens request reconsideration of a Culligan Dispenser. No discussion was held and no action was taken at this time.

RLVFD sent a request for assistance however no discussion was held and no action was taken.

Previous Mayor Leroy Casey returned bond funds in the amount \$750,000 to the Texas Water Development Board on May 7, 2018. Mayor Casey did not correctly submit forms when returning the funds. The City of Robert Lee will have to pay the interest on the funds whether funds were returned or not. Mayor Crenshaw recommends the City hold on to the funds for future projects. It will not cost the City any extra money to have the funds available and it doesn't save any money, at this point, to return it. Mayor Crenshaw and City Superintendent Billy Williams are gathering information regarding a water treatment plant and the funds may be needed to complete that type of large project.

A motion by Mayor Pro Tem Roger C. Alexander Jr., to rescind previous motion to return bond funds to the Texas Water Development Board; and was seconded by Council Member Ricky Green. Vote 4-0; Motion carried

The electric bill averages \$6,000 a month. A budget amendment will be presented to City Council at the November meeting. Much of the bill is due to streetlights, pumps for the water and sewer systems, and multiple buildings.

Mountain Creek pump averages \$1,000 a month. The pump in Bronte, which feeds the entire City of Robert Lee, averages \$1,000 a month.

Propose donating a more efficient pump to the Mountain Creek to save expenses or Mountain Creek to provide assistance in paying the electric utilities bill.

Discussion only was held and no action was taken.

The intergovernmental contract for the City of Robert Lee to lease computerized voting equipment from Coke County in the amount \$1,003.43 was discussed.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Roger C. Alexander Jr., to approve of contract with Coke County for election machines; and was seconded by Council Member Janie Munoz. Vote 4-0; Motion carried.

An intergovernmental agreement with Coke County to propose, in return for fire services, the City will request repair of pot holes. This will be discussed at the November City Council meeting. Discussion only was held and no action was taken.

The City of Bronte council meeting was held September 20, 2018, and agenda items 18 and 19 (listed below) were discussed. The Bronte City Council refuses to allow their Utilities Director Ricky Royall to assist the City of Robert Lee after hours for water or sewer

guidance without a contract between the City of Robert Lee and City of Bronte.

Agenda Item 18 - Discuss - Utilities: Review of Water Supply Contract with City of Robert Lee and City of Bronte and Wholesale Treated Water Supply Agreement with UCRA, City of Robert Lee and City of Bronte. Both contracts are from 2011.

Agenda Item 19 - Discuss/Act - Utilities: Discuss employment by our Utilities Director with City of Robert Lee and Coke County Water Supply Corporation. Determine liability to the City of Bronte regarding moonlighting and use of a City vehicle, TML insurance coverage, liability for City of Bronte with TCEQ for City of Robert Lee and Coke County Water Supply Corporation hiring a City of Bronte employee on an individual basis, being contract labor to a third party, and services rendered for treatment and testing; conflict of interest (if any) and interference with primary job with City of Bronte, and approval by Council for such. If liability is determined, consider Contract Services between City of Bronte and City of Robert Lee. Since there is no contract known with Coke County Water Supply Corporation, consider communication regarding the same.

Due to the issues the City of Bronte has with their Utilities Director Ricky Royall, Ricky is no longer comfortable helping the neighboring community of the City of Robert Lee.

Bronte City Council made a motion requiring the City of Robert Lee to write an agreement for Utilities Director Ricky Royall's services to be paid to the City of Bronte and releasing the City of Bronte from all liability. Bronte's Mayor was instructed to send a letter outlining what the contract should say. The contract was to be approved by an attorney, at the City of Robert Lee's expense. Mayor Allyson Crenshaw

attended Bronte's council meeting and reminded Bronte's City Council that they do not have the authority to make a motion instructing the Mayor of Robert Lee or the City of Robert Lee to take any action. Mayor Crenshaw recommends replacing Ricky Royall in an effort to reduce tension between the City of Robert Lee and the City of Bronte. Mayor Crenshaw pointed out that replacing Ricky should not reflect negatively on him in any way; the City of Robert Lee appreciates his help and are satisfied with his work.

City Superintendent, Billy Williams, suggested a 6-month contract with TCEQ licensed Justin Brickey to provide sampling, testing, treating, and other duties as required by the state for the water and sewer systems beginning November 1, 2018. This contract will end at the request of the City of Robert Lee when Billy Williams completes his TCEQ testing to renew his licensing.

Ricky Royall has agreed to continue servicing the City of Robert Lee until November 1, 2018.

A motion was made by Council Member Janie Munoz to approve of a Water Services Contract with Justin Brickey; and was seconded by Council Member Ann Hedges. Vote 4-0; Motion carried.

City Secretary Crystal Blevins prepared three applications to the United States Department of Agriculture for a Community Facilities grant for a backhoe and two utility pickups. The equipment is needed to take care of the City. If the applications are approved, USDA will provide the percentage approved and what the City's portion would cost. City Council can accept or reject the grants based on the actual dollar amounts.

A motion was made by Council Member Janie Munoz to approve submitting the three applications to the USDA for a Communities Facilities Grant for a backhoe and two utility

pickups; and was seconded by Council Member Ricky Green. Vote 4-0; Motion carried.

Texas Communities Groups, LLC's (TCG) mission is to increase current tax values by impacting a city's lowest valued properties in a positive manner by implementing an effective plan to address dilapidated and abandoned structures, to creatively market property, and to utilize acquired properties to meet the housing needs of residents.

TCG provided a list of thirty-six properties within the City of Robert Lee that are at least 5 years delinquent on property taxes and a contract for Council's consideration.

The contract service agreement authorizes TCG to foreclose on properties due to unpaid taxes, clear hazardous structures, and auction/sell them. The agreement is a two-year term costing a total of \$2,500.00. Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP (property tax attorneys for Coke County) have agreed to pay half of expenses making the cost to the City of Robert Lee \$1,250.00. The proceeds of property sales are paid to the City of Robert Lee, so the program will easily pay for itself.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Roger C. Alexander Jr., to approve of contract with Texas Communities Group, LLC; and was seconded by

Council Member Ricky Green. Vote 4-0; Motion carried.

It was proposed to submit an application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for a HOME grant.

A motion was made by Council Member Janie Munoz to approve submitting application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for a HOME grant; and was seconded by Council Member Ricky Green. Vote 4-0; Motion carried.

Mayor Allyson Crenshaw requests approval of the Project Agreement with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to utilize inmates in the City of Robert Lee for various jobs including but not limited to mowing, clearing river beds, putting up/taking down Christmas lights and other seasonal decorations, painting, digging, etc. Expenses include feeding each worker lunch and will be included in the budget amendment to be discussed in November. The cost of lunch is less than 1 hour of payroll expense and allows City employees to focus on other assignments.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Roger C. Alexander Jr., to approve of the Project Agreement with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;

(Continued on page 8)

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3 BEDROOMS AND 2 BATHS • OPEN FLOOR PLAN

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December VP meeting held

Vision With A Purpose held its monthly meeting Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 6 pm at their headquarters in downtown Robert Lee. Floyd Pettit opened with prayer and a meal was served.

Sheri Millican read the minutes from the November meeting and Jeffie Roberts gave the treasurer's report. Both were approved.

The Executive committee gave a report on their meeting held prior to the general meeting. Bylaws are being tweaked.

Jeffie Roberts presented the results of the Hunter's BBQ held in November. A lot of hard work with lots of outside help made for another successful event. Community involvement was the key to its success.

Debbie Childers, chairman, gave the latest update on Small Town Christmas, which was to be held Saturday, December 8. Decorations for the Event Center were almost complete and VP was looking forward to opening its doors for the Robert Lee Open House, held on Friday, December 7, and then again on Saturday, December 8, for Small Town Christmas. Decorations were under the supervision of Nancy Wilson, president. With her knowledge and vision, Robert Lee was transformed, outside up and down the street, and inside the headquarters. Also, the gazebo and park were sights to behold.

The meeting closed with prayer led by Debbie Childers. The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 3, 2019. A meal will be provided. All are encouraged to join this community-minded organization.

... Robert Lee Council Minutes

(Continued from page 7) and was seconded by Council Member Ann Hedges. Vote 4-0; Motion carried.

Mayor's Report

TML - Returned from TML Annual Conference.

Atmos - Provided status update on Atmos Energy Corporation's rates

City Secretary's Report

CodeRED - Form will be provided on the back of the utility bills

Audit - Eckert & Company are tentatively scheduled to perform audit the first week of December

Payment Arrangement - One current payment arrangement
City Superintendent's Report

Acme Iron and Metal, Co. - Purchase receipt was provided in the amount \$468.35, which was deposited into the City's account. Previous scrap metal sales were not deposited into the bank but were placed in a container in City Hall. Scrap metal sales receipts were found in excess of \$3,500.00 with no accountability of spending.

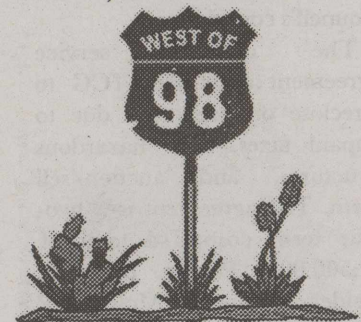
Drying Beds - Two layers of rock have been applied

Employees - Hired two new employees

TCEQ - Reports have not been submitted the previous two years. TCEQ issued a violation notice for failure to submit reports within required time frame. Notice will be mailed to the citizens informing them of the violation. Reports have now been submitted.

Request of Future Agenda Items includes Water Deposit Rate, Senior Citizen Rate, Coke County Intergovernmental Agreement, and Budget Amendment.

A motion was made by Council Member Janie Munoz to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 pm; and was seconded by Council Member Ann Hedges. Vote 4-0; Motion carried.



An Outward Expression of Christmas

By James M. Decker

Last week, I wrote about the seemingly inevitable stress, exhaustion, and annoyance of the Christmas season. I encouraged each of us to focus on hope—the hope provided by the birth of Jesus Christ and the hope that we can find in our own lives. In his classic song "If We Make It Through December," Merle Haggard has very few obvious reasons for hope, but he still has hope all the same. If he can find hope, in the context of that song, we too can find hope in our lives.

On my mind today is how we can actually express that hope that underlies Christmas. How can we end the cycle of holiday stress, exhaustion, and annoyance? It shouldn't have to be inevitable. We shouldn't have to fight it. We shouldn't have to find reasons to take a step back and escape it. It's easy to blame "society" for the

commercialization of Christmas and encouraging obsession in pursuit of holiday perfection. But society is a "we," not a "they." Even if we are but a tiny fraction of society, we're still part of the society that creates and exacerbates those feelings in each of us. We can't and shouldn't wait on "them" to improve society, we must look for ways that "we" can improve society.

We can and should start in our own homes and communities. This goes even beyond my encouragement last week to worry less about trying to provide the perfect Christmas for friends, family, or community. For many in our communities, perfection in Christmas isn't even a consideration. For numerous reasons, folks are merely trying to survive Christmas.

Christmas is expensive. The cost of Christmas gifts, trees and ornaments, maybe even a few outside decorations and lights, is staggering. That's before we get to the cost of a Christmas dinner for a family. For families living from paycheck to paycheck, it's an impossible task that results in greater financial hardship—credit card debt or high-interest short-term loans—or simply doing without.

However, struggling for survival at Christmas crosses socioeconomic lines. It touches every demographic in our community. Many of our family, friends, and neighbors will face their first Christmas without a loved one, whether parent, spouse, sibling, child, or otherwise. Without that person, the holidays can go on, but they will never be the same. For others, it is not the first Christmas without a loved one, but the second, third, or tenth without them is still difficult. Some may have strained or distant relationships with family, so the concept of being "together" at Christmas simply doesn't exist.

Others are already struggling with depression and other mental health issues. The pressures associated with the holidays—

obligations for family, friends, work, church, and community—can be completely overwhelming. There's a reason why mental health concerns become bigger during the holidays. Too many of our friends and family are not sure if they CAN make it through December. Do we even realize that?

Last year, I wrote about Stamford's Christmas Day Dinner. This year, for the 31st year, we'll serve fellowship and a full Christmas dinner to anyone and everyone who desires it. Some come out of need for a hot meal. Others come to avoid loneliness. Many simply desire the good community-wide fellowship. Last year, over 700 people were served with the simple mission that, no matter your lot in life, you shouldn't have to be alone on Christmas Day.

With three weeks before Christmas, there are many opportunities for us to improve the Christmas season by changing our own piece of society. It doesn't require a large event serving a meal to your community. It may be as simple as taking an evening to spend time with an older neighbor. It might mean a quick trip to Walmart to purchase a toy for a local toy drive. It might be pressing a \$10 bill into the hand of a clearly-struggling mother doing her shopping at the store one day.

Whatever the case may be, I hope and pray that each of us will look across our community, at familiar faces and strangers, and find a way to make Christmas something happy, not merely a struggle for survival.

James Decker is a lawyer, farmer, and mayor in Stamford, Texas, and the creator of the forthcoming "West of 98"

podcast and website. He may be contacted through Facebook at facebook.com/james.decker.

... BCISD Menu

- (Continued from page 4)
- Monday, December 17**
Chicken Quesadilla, refried beans, corn, salsa, milk
- Tuesday, December 18**
Sloppy Joe, chips, baby carrots, milk
- Wednesday, December 19**
Corn dog, mac n cheese, baked beans, milk
- Thursday, December 20**
Frito Pie with chili and cheese, chili beans, milk
- Friday, December 21**
Sack Lunch - early release, milk

"Paint the Town"

Improvement Project

The RL4Restoration Foundation is accepting applications for the "Paint the Town" Improvement Project. Since home is where the heart is and their hearts are for Robert Lee, the foundation decided their first project should be geared towards the homes and people in our town. The "Paint the Town" Improvement project is an opportunity to receive assistance in repainting or cleanup of homes in the community.

The project will be carried out by volunteers of the RL4Restoration Foundation and volunteers from groups or individuals that feel led to contribute their time and efforts.

Applications are being accepted through December 31, 2018, for project houses in 2019. You can fill out an application for your own property or nominate a neighbor. This is a great way to help each other make the town a better place to live and for future generations.

For more information on the project or about RL4Restoration Foundation, you can join their Facebook group or feel free to contact Crystal Stanford or Erin Oleksiuk through their Facebook pages.

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Agent

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December 25, 11 am to 1 pm
or until we run out

We will not take reservations.

Plates will be served on a first come, first served basis. Drive through, to go plates only. We will only give out plates to those present in the vehicle.

Meal to include ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, green bean casserole, and a roll.

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Merry Christmas
from our kitchen to you!