

- Helping with treatment costs for cancer and cerebral palsy.

- Receiving ABA and Equine Therapy and much more.

JTF's service area has grown from a few of Abilene's surrounding counties to 60 Texas counties. This paper's readership counties are all included. If you have, or know of, a medically fragile child that needs help, please go online to [www.JosephThomasFoundation.org](http://www.JosephThomasFoundation.org) or keep in touch with JTF at [www.facebook.com/JTF2007/](https://www.facebook.com/JTF2007/)

How can JTF help?

- The foundation has three storage facilities located in Abilene and Weatherford, where donated medical supplies, supplements, and equipment can be donated. The Facebook page posts items available.

- The foundation takes

applications for assistance through a form located on their website. Any questions concerning the application can be answered with a phone call.

- The foundation holds two main events a year for medically fragile children and their families. A Triathlon in February at PrimeTime in Abilene, and a Biathlon in November at Film Alley in Weatherford. Families can play miniature golf, Skee ball and bowl at these free events.

If you would like more information on the Joseph Thomas Foundation, or would like a speaker for a club or event, or would consider donating, please visit our website or email John Thomas at [john@josephthomasfoundation.org](mailto:john@josephthomasfoundation.org).

Roenna Thomas  
Board Member and Joseph's  
Grandmother



**Swearing In!** Coke County's elected officials, as well as the deputies in the Sheriff's Office, were recently sworn in by County Judge Hal Spain. Elected officials (top photo, from left to right) included Josie Dean, County Tax Assessor-Collector; Nick Arrott, County Attorney; Wayne McCutchen, County Sheriff; Donald Robertson, Commissioner Precinct 1; and Marty Boyd, Constable. Not pictured is Marshall Millican, Commissioner Precinct 3, who was sworn in at a later date. Coke County Sheriff's Office deputies also sworn in included Sparks Burdett, Brandon Neal, Damian Roberson, and Chief Deputy Billy Williams.

## Robert Lee ISD celebrates School Board Recognition Month this January

The Robert Lee ISD will join 1,024 school districts throughout Texas to celebrate January as School Board Recognition Month, Superintendent Dr. Aaron Hood announced Tuesday, January 5.

Our school board members are volunteers who shoulder critical responsibilities and often make difficult choices for our district, all without pay. Their goal is always focused on the future success of the children in our district. Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one way to say thanks for all they do.

Serving as a link between the community and classroom, school board members are elected to establish the policies that provide the framework for public schools. The Robert Lee ISD board is responsible for an annual budget of \$3.6 million, 254 students, 49 employees, and

one campus.

Board members serving Robert Lee ISD are Wes Washam, 20 years, retired; Jeffie Roberts, 16 years, retired; Tom Sawyer Jr., 15 years, retired; Beverly Sinclair, 12 years, retired; Erin Oleksiuk, 9 years, employed by Coke County SWCD; George Grim, 8 years, retired; Linda Burns elected in November 2020 for a three year term, retired.

It's more important than ever before that communities support public education so that today's students are prepared to be productive citizens and the leaders of tomorrow. Please take a moment and tell school board members 'thanks for caring about our children and giving so much to our community.' Let them know we support them and that their dedicated service is recognized and truly appreciated.

Technical assistance is provided without a fee from NRCS specialists to help landowners and land managers plan and implement conservation practices to help them meet their land management goals, address natural resource concerns and improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

For additional information visit the NRCS Texas website at [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov). Applications for EQIP are accepted on a continuous basis. Producers interested in EQIP can contact their local USDA service center or visit the NRCS EQIP web page.

USDA service center. If already a USDA client, a producer can submit applications online via [Farmers.gov](http://Farmers.gov).

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers.

## NRCS announces 2021 deadline for Conservation Assistance Funding

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Texas has established a second funding application deadline of February 12, 2021, for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

"We are encouraging producers to call their NRCS office to discuss conservation planning and financial assistance options," said Kristy Oates, NRCS state conservationist for Texas. "Applications received by the February 12 deadline will be ranked for funding by early June."

Applications are taken year-round for NRCS programs, but deadlines are announced to rank and fund eligible conservation projects. Producers interested in signing up for EQIP should submit applications to their local

### South Plains College Dean's List announced

South Plains College in Levelland, Texas, congratulated more than 700 students who

were named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List.

Local students named to the list include Kaitlyn Gaston of Blackwell.

# HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

All facilities of this bank will be closed

Monday, January 18.

In Observance Of



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Please plan your banking requirements during regular banking hours to avoid any inconvenience.

**Robert Lee State Bank**

Member FDIC

453-2545

Robert Lee, Texas

## Mike's Tire Shop

201 North State Street  
Bronte, Texas 76933

325-473-2400 ~ Mike Smith  
325-213-1927 Mobile

Monday - Friday ~ 8 am - 6 pm

Saturday ~ 8 am - Noon

Available for Service Calls!

Get a quote online at

[mikestireshoptexas.com!](http://mikestireshoptexas.com!)