

**Vision with a Purpose meeting held**

Vision With a Purpose held their first meeting of 2016 at their headquarters on Austin Street Thursday, January 7, at 6:30 pm. The meeting opened with a prayer led by Gaylon Childress.

Debbie Childers went over 2015's activities and accomplishments: ribbon cuttings, flags for Memorial Park, long range planning committee, scholarships, golf cart to local golf course, memorial for Ed Blackburn, Street Affair, Sons of Pitches sponsorship, manning the home football games concession stand, bake sale, December's Open House and Small Town Christmas.

It was reported that seven Thanksgiving baskets were delivered to Robert Lee families by Renee Smith.

New bi-laws were introduced and accepted by the membership.

It was approved to donate \$400 to the Coke County Junior Livestock Show and to donate a syrup tub for their auction.

Debbie Childers was appointed President Emeritus for next year. She has served as president for the past 5 years.

It was suggested and approved to install bricks in Memorial Park in honor of Mr. Torres, Ed Blackburn, Tina Prentice and Bill Blair.

Heart Workers for December were Jan and Floyd Pettit, announced by Debbie Childers. Besides operating three successful insurance offices, the Pettits have chaired committees, participated in many activities, and are great supporters of Robert Lee.

Next month's meeting will be Thursday, February 4. At that meeting will be the election of officers.

**Farm bill safety net program enrollment now open for COKE County farmers**

It's time once again for Coke County farmers to enroll in farm bill safety net programs at the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

The enrollment period for the 2015 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs opened Dec. 7 and will remain open through Aug. 1, 2016.

"Many Coke County farmers already made their safety net program selection, but it's important for all of them to go back to the FSA office to enroll their acreage into the program for the new year," John Ross Copeland, Coke County Farm Bureau president, said.

FSA officials encourage farmers to call their local FSA office to make an appointment to enroll before the deadline.

"If Coke County farmers don't enroll, their farms and crops won't be eligible for financial assistance should crop prices or farm revenues fall," John Ross said. "These safety nets are important to ensure American farmers have

something, if only the percentage of a crop's original value, to make ends meet in bad years. Without it, many farmers and ranchers would go out of business in times of drought or excessive rain."

For more information, farmers are encouraged to visit the local FSA office.

**Commissioners Court minutes posted**

The Coke County Commissioners Court met in regular session on December 8, 2015, at the courthouse in Robert Lee. All members of the court were present. Clerk Mary Grim was also in attendance.

The meeting opened with prayer, given by Judge Blair, and the pledge to the flag was recited.

Judge Blair announced the presence of a quorum.

Comm. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes for November 24. The motion was seconded by Comm. Montgomery. The motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was not available.

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**Civic Minded Youngsters!** These three young ladies worked for over three hours one day before Christmas sweeping the sidewalks of downtown Bronte and handing out candy canes to shoppers. Brynlee Graves, age 5, and Kennedi Graves, age 7, are the daughters of Kim Hall Graves. Brooke Davis, age 8, is the daughter of Wendy Johnson Davis.



Hello Coke County! I would like to introduce myself. My name is Shaunna Grantham, but many of you know me by my maiden name, Shaunna Jameson. I am running for Coke County Commissioner, Precinct 1, and am asking for your vote.

My roots run deep in Coke County. My grandparents, Bob and Joy Bagwell, are from Robert Lee and my other grandparents, Ramey and Wanda Jameson, are from Silver. I have a very special place in my heart for Coke County and the people who live here.

I was born in Andrews, Texas, and grew up as an oilfield brat. We moved around quite a bit until we settled on a small farm at Kilgore, Texas. Coke County has always been my home away from home because I spent summers and holidays here with my grandparents. In 1991, I moved to Robert Lee to finish high school and attend Howard College. I have been in this area since that time. My husband, Austin, and I decided to move back permanently in 2008 to raise our

family. We have three children, 22 year old Paeton, 9 year old Tristan, and 6 year old Addison. Tristan and Addison attend Robert Lee ISD.

I was an EMT Basic for 2 years and a Paramedic for 12 years. During that time, I was also an Office Manager for a Landscaping Company and a Trucking Company. I am now a stay-at-home mom and oilfield wife giving me the opportunity, if elected, to devote myself to being a full time County Commissioner. I am an active volunteer for Coke County 4-H and am on the Coke County 4-H Advisory Council. I also volunteer, when needed, with Robert Lee's Youth Sports. I was very pleased to be able to coordinate the effort to bring the Bountiful Baskets Food Co-Op to Robert Lee last June and am serving as volunteer Site Coordinator. I am also in the beginning stages of starting a Paw Patch Rescue, an animal rescue so badly needed in Coke County.

I do not consider myself a politician. However, I truly care about you, your safety and well-being. I am honest, trustworthy, dependable, consistent, and I don't sugarcoat anything. I will never make you an empty promise. Although I am strong-willed and determined, I've been told I work well with people.

From my standpoint, every issue needing to be addressed in Coke County boils down to a MONEY issue. It doesn't matter who is running or what they promise you, unless they can work toward solving this problem, there won't be any changes or improvements. I truly believe good things come to those who work their tails off and never give up!

With lots of hard work, research, technology, and hopefully some grants, TOGETHER we can get great things accomplished. I believe our county will benefit greatly if city and county officials will work together in finding solutions to the problems we are facing.

I'm not running for the money. When elected, I promise to put my money where my mouth is and will sign an affidavit giving HALF of my salary as Commissioner back to Coke County.

