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Serving Coke County

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LCRA awards grant to East Coke County Ambulance Service

With the help of a \$16,000 grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority, East Coke County Ambulance Service will purchase a new heart monitor to help improve the quality of emergency care for cardiac patients.

The Community Development Partnership Program grant, along with \$21,311 in matching funds from the ambulance service, will pay for a new cardiac monitor that can diagnose symptoms of a heart attack, act as a defibrillator, and perform comprehensive 12-lead electrocardiogram tests. Until now, the non-profit ambulance service's first responders had to rely on a three-lead cardiac monitor that is much less effective when attempting to diagnose a potential heart attack.

Stephen Salmon, president of

East Coke County Ambulance Service, said the 12-lead monitor will help first responders better assess potential cardiac issues. That additional information can be critical since the nearest hospital is in San Angelo, about a 30-minute drive from Bronte.

"We will have the ability to transmit that data, so the hospital is alerted sooner to the patient's condition," Salmon said. "If we have a cardiac patient in need, the hospital's cardiac team will be waiting for us when we hit the door."

East Coke County Ambulance Service combines with West Coke County Emergency Medical Services to provide emergency care to a 930-square-mile area between Abilene and San Angelo. The county has 3,285 residents according to the 2020 U.S. Census, and a quarter



Grant Awarded! Lower Colorado River Authority representatives presented a \$16,000 grant to the East Coke County Ambulance Service for a new heart monitor. The grant is part of LCRA's Community Development Partnership Program. Pictured above (from left to right) are Stephen Salmon, ECC Ambulance Service President; Beau Grigg, ambulance driver; Carol Freeman, LCRA Board Member; Everett Bedford, ambulance driver; Amy Reeves, incoming president; Cynthia Turner, EMT; Cooper Hogg, LCRA Regional Affairs representative; and Misti Hayes, emergency medical responder.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Friday, November 18

High School Basketball -

Robert Lee Girls, Boys at Rochelle, 4 pm

Saturday, November 19

High School Basketball -

Robert Lee Boys at Eden JV Tournament

Blackwell Boys, Girls at Rotan Tournament

Sunday, November 20

Community Thanksgiving Service, 6 pm,

Robert Lee Baptist Church

Monday, November 21

Coke County Retired Teachers Association Meeting,

12 noon, First Baptist Church, Bronte

High School Basketball -

Blackwell at Miles, 11 am

Eden at Robert Lee, 4 pm

Hermleigh Boys at Bronte, 5 pm

Thanksgiving Holiday -

Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell CISD

Tuesday, November 22

Thanksgiving Holiday -

Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell CISD

Wednesday, November 23

Thanksgiving Holiday -

Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell CISD

Thursday, November 24

Thanksgiving Holiday -

Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell CISD

Friday, November 25

Thanksgiving Holiday -

Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell CISD

of them are 65 or older.

Salmon said adding the new monitor will benefit patients beyond the upgraded diagnostic equipment.

"We have some local paramedics working out of the county who will come work for us if we have machines so they can practice up to their skill levels," he said. "This change

will attract more certified EMS personnel to the service and result in a higher level of care."

The community grant is one of 46 grants awarded recently through LCRA's Community Development Partnership Program, which helps volunteer fire departments, local governments, emergency responders and nonprofit

organizations fund capital improvement projects in LCRA's wholesale electric, water and transmission service areas. The program is part of LCRA's effort to give back to the communities it serves.

Applications for the next round of grants will be accepted in January. More information is available at lcra.org/cdpp.

Community Thanksgiving Service set for November 20

The annual Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at Robert Lee Baptist Church on Sunday, November 20, at 6 pm.

The message will be brought by Pastor Chris Walls and the music portion of the service will be local talent.

An offering plate will be set up in the foyer of the church if you would like to contribute. All

proceeds will go to the Coke County Food Pantry. If you would like to bring non-perishable food items for the food pantry, a box will be set out to put your items in.

Bring your favorite finger foods for the fellowship that will follow in the fellowship hall!

CCRTA to meet November 21

On Monday, November 21, the Coke County Retired Teachers Association will have a noon meeting at the First Baptist

Church in Bronte. The district president, Karen Hoelscher, will be a special guest. TRTA is a service and action organization supporting all public school employees and public school retirees.

WCCHD meeting set for November 29

The West Coke County Hospital District Board will meet on Tuesday, November 29, at 9:30 am. The meeting will be held at the WCCHD board (722 Washington) in Robert Lee.



Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be an early deadline for the Friday, November 25, issue. All items must be submitted by 5 pm on Friday, November 18.

