

Texas School Safety Center Board! Governor Greg Abbott has appointed Craig Bessent, a Robert Lee native, to the Texas School Safety Center Board. The board reports to the Governor, the legislature, the State Board of Education, and the Texas Education Agency regarding school safety and security, and advises the center on its function, budget, and strategic planning initiatives. Craig resides in Abilene and is the assistant superintendent of Wylie Independent School District in charge of school operations, school safety, and security. He is a Texas School Marshal and a member of the Texas Association of School Administrators, Texas Association of Pupil Transportation, and Combined Law Enforcement of Texas. Additionally, Craig volunteers as a board member of Abilene Crime Stoppers, View Caps Water District, and Abilene Emergency Operations. He received a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Education from Texas Tech University and a school superintendent certification from Abilene Christian University.



...March Primary Election Information

(Continued from front page)
Robin Roller was appointed on Friday, November 8, 2019, to serve in this role. She can be reached by calling (325) 450-6624.

Coke County currently does not have a Democratic Party Chair. Potential candidates for this primary election will need to contact Glen Maxey, Primary Director of the Texas Democratic Party, at (512) 478-9800.

Each candidate will need to pay a filing fee (\$750.00) which

will go toward paying for the elections to be held. If the candidate prefers not to pay a filing fee, they may circulate and turn in a petition having at least fifty registered and verified voters' signatures.

As of Monday, November 18, Coke County Sheriff Wayne McCutchen, Commissioner Precinct 1 Donnie Robertson, and Commissioner Precinct 3 Marshall Millican have all filed to retain their seats. Constable Marty Boyd has filed as well to retain his seat and will be joined on the ballot by Billy Williams.



District Contest! Robert Lee High School FFA participated at the District LDE Contest on Wednesday, November 13, 2019. The group placed 8th in Radio, 5th in Junior Quiz, 6th in Senior Quiz, 4th in Greenhand Chapter Conducting and 2nd in Public Relations. The second place in Public Relations earned them a trip to the area contest.

ranchers while Trump works to address long-standing market access barriers, USDA said.

"We are hopeful for a resolution to the trade dispute with China," Wilbourn said. "But as markets continue to suffer from lost trade due to retaliatory tariffs, we welcome help in these uncertain times."

Trade damages from such retaliation and market distortions have impacted a host of U.S. commodities.

Producers of alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, millet, mustard seed, dried beans, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed,

temperate japonica rice, triticale, upland cotton and wheat will receive a payment based on a single county rate multiplied by a farm's total plantings to those crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019, and therefore, will not distort planting decisions.

Total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings.

Dairy farmers will receive a per hundredweight payment on

production history and hog farmers will receive a payment based on hog and pig inventory for a later-specified time frame.

Sign up for the program goes through December 6.

USDA also continues to purchase food products, such as beef and lamb, through the Food Purchase and Distribution Program. Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act authority is being used to purchase up to \$1.4 billion of surplus commodities in four phases that began October 1.

USDA to issue second tranche of trade payments

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is preparing to roll out the second round of trade relief payments to American farmers as a result of retaliatory tariffs.

In a call with reporters on Thursday, November 7, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue said the next payment could be coming later in November or early December.

"The recently announced second tranche of the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) provides certainty for Texas farmers at a time when they are finishing harvest and incurring expenses going into the next growing season," Brant Wilbourn, Texas Farm Bureau associate director of Commodity and Regulatory Activities, said.

In May, USDA announced it would again provide payments

under MFP.

The first round of MFP payments was issued in August.

The payments are part of a \$16 billion aid package announced in May to be paid in three separate tranches.

The \$16 billion is in line with the estimated impacts of unjustified retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural goods and other trade disruptions. These programs will assist farmers and

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Robert Lee, Texas