

...Early voting to begin
(Continued from front page)

These three candidates turned in their forms and filing fees to Republican County Chair Deborah Bailey.

Paul Williams, the current Precinct 2 Commissioner, and Jennifer Burdett have both filed Declarations of Intent with County Judge Hal Spain to run for office in the November General Election. Williams filed for his current office and Burdett filed for County/ District Clerk.

Filing period continues
for May’s local entity
elections

The filing period for the May 7, 2022, local government entity elections began Wednesday, January 19, 2022, and will continue through 5 pm Friday, February 18, 2022.

The City of Robert Lee will hold an election for mayor, currently held by Jason Moran. The council member terms expiring are held by Jonathan Torres and Daniel Jasso.

The City of Bronte will hold an election for mayor, currently held by Paul “Buzz” Gohman. The council member terms expiring are held by Kinley Pritchard and Gwen Dyess.

The City of Blackwell holds all of their elections for mayor and council members at one time and this is not an election year for this entity.

Bronte ISD will hold an



Date Night! The annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night was held this past Saturday, February 5, in Robert Lee. This year there were 93 people in attendance. While the dance is now an event hosted by RL4Restoration Foundation, it is still a non-profit event. All money collected through ticket sales stays separate from RL4Restoration’s other events and rolls over for next year’s dance.

election to elect two members to the Board of Trustees. These terms are currently held by David McWright and Josh Schoenfield.

Robert Lee ISD will also hold an election to elect three members to the Board of Trustees. These three year terms are currently held by Beverly Sinclair and Erin Oleksiuk. The two year unexpired term left vacant by George Grim’s passing is also on the ballot.

Blackwell CISD will hold an election to elect three members

to the Board of Trustees. These seats are currently held by Jody Bell, Rick Stanford, and James Lee Sanderson.

West Coke County Hospital District will have two terms expiring for their Board of Trustees. These seats are currently held by Pat Stephens and Judie Andrews.

East Coke County Hospital District Board of Trustees has two terms expiring. These offices are currently held by Jerita Taylor and Everett Bedford.

larger variety of people, but within the boundaries of employer/employee, co-worker, or business/customer relationships.

Third places are different. They are voluntary and neutral. Participants are not obligated to visit, they choose to visit. Everyone is the same, regardless of economic or social dynamics elsewhere in life. Third place activities are usually conversational or playful. Oldenburg wrote that third places are essential to the health of human relationships, strong communities, and even democracy itself.

Why am I talking about this? In the last few essays, I have shared my thoughts on the importance

of local culture to strengthen rural communities. Local culture does not exist without third places. This is where we interact with people on a different level that does not happen otherwise. In much of life, we pass by or near other people without truly interacting. A society with few deep interactions is not much of a society. It is a group of individuals existing like parallel sets of railroad tracks. They are in close proximity. They might even point the same direction. Rarely do they ever cross. True culture and true community is built in third places, through conversations and shared purposes that might not be experienced or discovered otherwise.

(Continued on next page)

Coke County Project Show results told

The annual Coke County Project Show was held recently, in conjunction with the Livestock Show. Results from the Project Show are as follows.

Lego Model/Craft

Junior
1st) Kenzie Pritchard, 2nd) Kenzie Prithcard, 3rd) Emma Siler and Addison Siler

Best of Show

Intermediate

1st) Chisom Pentecost, 2nd) Mason Pritchard, 3rd) Mason Pritchard, 4th) Mason Pritchard, 5th) Mason Pritchard, 6th) Mason Pritchard

Kids Korner

1st) Caeson Runyan, 2nd) Beckham Runyan

Photography

Junior

Animal

1st) Kenzie Pritchard, 2nd) Kenzie Pritchard

Senior

Details and Macro

1st) Cambreigh Fluhmann

People

1st) Cambreigh Fluhmann, 2nd) Cambreigh Fluhmann

Animals and Domestic

1st) Cambreigh Fluhmann

Theme

1st) Cambreigh Fluhmann

“Best of Show” Motion

1st) Cambreigh Fluhmann

Adult

Food/Drink

1st) Jnae Walls

People

1st) Jnae Walls

Arts Best of Show

Junior

1st) Jacob Walls, 2nd) Kenzie Pritchard, 3rd) Grace Siler, 4th) Kenzie Pritchard, 5th) Kenzie Pritchard

Adult

1st) Brandi Sheldon, 2nd) Brandi Sheldon, 3rd) Brandi Sheldon

Kids Korner

1st) Anna Baird, 2nd) Nicole Baird, 3rd) Regina Baird

Repurpose

Junior

1st) Kenzie Pritchard

Kids Korner

1st) Colton Walls

Crafts Best of Show

Junior

1st) Kenzie Pritchard, 2nd) Jacob Walls

Kids Korner

1st) Colton Walls



A Third Place

By James M. Decker

Where is local culture created? How do you build relationships and strengthen a community?

In 1989, sociologist Ray Oldenburg wrote a book called “The Great Good Place,” theorizing the idea of the “third place.” We spend most of our time in two primary places, home and work. Our interactions there exist only with certain subsets of the population and under certain constraints. At home, we usually interact with our family or people we have invited into the space. At work, we might interact with a

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