

# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

*Serving Coke County*

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## Historic winter storm has Coke County below freezing for 9 days

Coke County, as well as other areas across Texas, have experienced the coldest continuous temperatures in decades. A "Winter Storm Warning" was issued this week for all 254 counties in Texas and surrounding states. Temperatures in our area reached below zero with windchill readings in the negative teens and twenties. Along with the brutally cold conditions, snow and ice were also dropped across the state.

Probably the biggest issue Texas faced was an insufficient power grid which relegated many Texans to the dark for hours and for many days. This lack of power, eventually caused a lack of water for many Texas citizens with municipalities not having power to the necessary equipment to treat fresh water

and water in storage running out.

Area farmers and ranchers were kept busy working to keep livestock, if not comfortable, at least alive. They braved treacherous roads to deliver feed and hay and for some, stepping out on stock tanks to break ice so animals could get a drink.

Area schools, businesses and government offices were forced to close for a variety of outages - power, water and the internet. Many people had never heard of ERCOT (Electric Reliability Council of Texas) before this disaster. Hopefully, our elected officials will insist upon changes to Texas' electric grid that will never allow this debacle to occur again. See more pictures from this historical weather event in this issue of The Observer/Enterprise.



there is a full year between elections. Due to Covid, there is only a six month period between the 2020 election and the 2021 election. The last local entity election was held in conjunction

### Candidates set for May's local entity elections

The filing period for the May 1, 2021, local government entity elections ended last Friday, February 12, 2021. Ordinarily,

with the general election on November 3, 2020. Completed information was difficult to come by with the horrible weather we are experiencing and the toll it is taking on power, water, phone service and internet service throughout Coke County and statewide.

At the end of the filing period, some entities must have an election due to a surplus of candidates. Most of the other entities had the same number of candidates file as offices available and will probably be able to cancel their election.

The City of Robert Lee will hold an election for the council member terms currently held by Becca McGuire and Tracy Grantham. The seat vacated by Jason Moran when he was elected Mayor is also on the ballot. Tracy Grantham has filed to retain her seat. David Lewis and

Joshua Tension have filed to be included on the ballot.

The City of Bronte has terms for three council positions. These are two year terms. The offices are currently held by Ron Cooper, Stormy Vaughn and Santiago Rodriguez. Tomas Jowers, Clabe Webb, RA Morris and Zachary Davidson have turned in applications for a place on the ballot.

Bronte ISD will hold an election to elect three members to the Board of Trustees. These are three year terms currently held by Ashley Braswell, Terry Queen and Blake Braswell. Ashley Braswell and Terry Queen have filed for re-election. They will be joined on the ballot by Lynsey Coalson and Dustin Bilyeu.

Robert Lee ISD will also hold an election to elect three members to the Board of Trustees. These are three year

terms currently held by George Grim, Wes Washam and Tom Sawyer, Jr. Washam and Sawyer have filed for re-election. George Grim also filed to retain his seat on the Board, but has unfortunately passed away. We all appreciate the years of service he gave to the citizens of Robert Lee.

West Coke County Hospital District has two two year terms expiring for their Board of Trustees. The terms of Noel Tinkler and Beverly Burdett are expiring. Both incumbents have filed for re-election. They will be joined on the ballot by Betty Lewis.

East Coke County Hospital District Board of Trustees has two two year terms expiring. These offices are currently held by Gina McCutchen and Jerita Taylor. Only the incumbents filed for re-election.

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Saturday, February 20

Bronte Convenience Center Open,  
8 am - 12 noon

### Sunday, February 21

RL4Restoration Benefit Lunch, 12 pm - Sold Out,  
Robert Lee First United Methodist Church

### Monday, February 22

Friends of the Robert Lee Care Center Meeting,  
10 am, 10 West 15th Street, Robert Lee

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High School Golf -

Robert Lee Girls at Eden

### Tuesday, February 23

Bronte FUMC Pancake Supper, 5:30 pm - 7 pm,  
First United Methodist Church, Bronte

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Junior High Track -

Robert Lee at Highland Hilltop Relays

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High School Golf -

Robert Lee Boys at Eden

### Thursday, February 25

High School Track -  
Robert Lee at Highland Hilltop Relays

### Convenience Center to be open February 20

The City of Bronte's Convenience Center will no longer be open the first Saturday of each month, instead changing to the third Saturday of each month. It will be open on February 20, 2021, from 8 am until noon. For questions or more information, contact City Hall at (324) 473-3501.

### Friends of the RLCC to meet February 22

The February meeting of the Friends of the Robert Lee Care Center will be held on Monday, February 22, at 10 am at 10 West 15th Street in Robert Lee. Anyone interested in finding out

more about this auxiliary organization is welcome to attend.

### Benefit Lunch set for March 7

A benefit lunch will be held Sunday, March 7, beginning at 12 noon. The drive through event will be held at Robert Lee Baptist Church, with pickup available under the awning. Plates will consist of brisket, red beans, potato salad, bread, and dessert. Orders can be placed ahead of time by calling the church at (325) 453-2724, sending an email to rlbaptist1904@wcc.net, or contacting Susan Pentecost at (325) 212-4255. All proceeds

from the event will benefit Kobe Smith, who has recently been diagnosed with epilepsy, to assist with medical expenses.

### Golf tournament slated for May 8-9

The 2nd Annual Grip It and Sip It Invitational Golf Tournament will be held May 8-9 at Mountain Creek Golf Course in Robert Lee. The 2-person scramble will have tee times of 9 am and 2 pm. The tournament will be capped at 54 teams. To register or for more information, contact Mason Ross at (325) 763-7516 or Chris Baltzell at (432) 661-1158. All proceeds from the event will benefit Mountain Creek Golf Course.