

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

Single Copy 75¢



(USPS 467-480)
(ISSN 8750-197X)

Vol. 133, No. 31

Friday, February 5, 2021

Current Covid numbers continue downward trend

By Hal Spain
Reported COVID cases showed another decrease this week in Coke County. Total confirmed plus probable cases as of Wednesday, January 27, 2021 were at 26 compared to 31 cases being reported last week. Of those 26 current cases, 4 were reported as lab confirmed with 22 probables.

The breakdown as to location of current cases consists of Bronte – 18 cases and Robert Lee – 4. Overall for the length of the pandemic, the State Health Department Dashboard lists Coke County with 206 confirmed cases, and 229 probables, for a total of 435. 400 cases are listed as recovered, along with 11 fatalities.

I have several sources that county residents may use to register and be placed on a list to receive information for scheduling once more vaccine becomes available in our area. The link for the first website can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LXX7S6V>.

As we reported previously, the San Angelo Health Department has opened up registration for residents 65 and older, and you can register on their website, which is cosatx.us/vaccineform, and be placed on the list to receive the vaccine as it becomes available.

The Ballinger Hospital Clinic also has a registration process, and you can contact them at (325) 365-5737. You may also contact shannonhealth.com and click on the COVID tab to register. Additional registration opportunities may also be available at either HEB Pharmacy location in San Angelo. Residents are reminded that only those 65 years or older or those with special medical conditions are eligible to register for the vaccine at this time.

County residents can find up-to-date coronavirus information and what to do if you're sick, testing, and information at dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus. Those with local issues and questions are advised to contact the County Judge's office at 325.453.2641.

Benefit lunch slated for February 14

RL4Restoration will host a Valentine's Lunch on Sunday, February 14, beginning at 12 noon. The drive-through, pickup only event will be held at the

Robert Lee First United Methodist Church. Plates will consist of Chicken Alfredo, Italian bread, salad, and a Valentine's dessert. Proceeds from the event will benefit RL4Restoration's playground project.



Moving On Up! The Robert Lee Lady Steers basketball team celebrates after their 37-24 win over Blackwell on Friday, January 29, 2021. As of this game, the Lady Steers remain undefeated in district play with a record of 8-0. The Lady Steers have also now jumped five spots on the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches rankings, moving from #25 up to #20.

Pancake supper set for February 16

The Bronte United Methodist Church will be hosting their Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. This event has become the United Methodists men's annual fundraiser.

They will celebrate the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, as many call it Mardi Gras or 'Fat Tuesday' but the official name is 'Shrove Tuesday'. Shrove Tuesday is observed in many Christian countries through participating in confession and absolution. Shrove Tuesday is the last day for 'over indulging' and eating foods one might not should eat during the time of Lent. One way many local churches celebrate 'Fat Tuesday' or 'Shrove Tuesday' is by hosting pancake suppers.

Please help celebrate 'Fat Tuesday' by attending Bronte United Methodist Church's Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 16, from 5:30 pm to 7 pm. Everyone is invited and the meal is by donation. There will be pancakes, waffles, butter, syrup, bacon, sausage, and drinks.

The next morning, Wednesday, February 17, Pastor Stacy Sprinkle will open the church from 7:15 am to 8 am for anyone who wants to receive ashes that morning. The Bronte United Methodist Church will also have Ash Wednesday services that evening at 6 pm.

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.

Local entity filing period continues

The filing period for the May 1, 2021, local government entity elections began Wednesday, January 13, 2021, and will end Friday, February 12, 2021. Ordinarily, 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 with the general election on November 3, 2020.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

If interested in running for one of these offices, applications are available at the entities during normal office hours.

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.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Friday, February 5

High School Basketball -
Water Valley at Robert Lee, 4 pm
Irion County Girls at Blackwell, 6:15 pm
Blackwell Boys at Bronte, 7:30 pm

Monday, February 8

Junior High Basketball -
Bronte at Sterling City, 6 pm
Water Valley at Blackwell, 6 pm

Tuesday, February 9

High School Basketball -
Water Valley at Bronte, 5 pm
Robert Lee at Sterling City, 4 pm
Blackwell at Irion County, 5 pm