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Could Bronte flood once again?

by Erin Oleksiuk, Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District, District Technician

Could history repeat itself in Bronte, Texas? In 1953, North Bronte received 11 inches and Bronte received 8 inches of rain over a period of four hours. All stores flooded and residents were forced to flee flood waters. All bridges in Precinct 2 were impassable and fire trucks were used to rescue people from homes. Typhoid shots had to be given to residents due to a lack of proper sewage system caused by the flood waters. Damages were estimated to cost \$75,000 - \$100,000 for rebuilding and repairing roads, bridges, highways, terraces, railroads, and loss of livestock.

Starting in 1962, construction began on a series of six dams that would protect Bronte from the waters in West, Middle, and East Kickapoo creeks that all merge in the town. The Kickapoo Water Control Improvement District was formed and became a taxing entity for some residents in East Coke County.

Fast forward to present day. Bronte is a thriving community filled with local businesses, churches, a school, and many ranches passed down through multiple generations. Since none of the dams are visible from the highways, they are out of sight and out of mind to many residents. It's something the "ole timers" discuss from time to time. But there is a silent threat in Coke County that we ALL need to be aware of. The dams



have a 50-year life span and it has been exceeded. This does not mean they are obsolete; this does mean they need more maintenance and that equals more dollars. While all dams have erosion damage, one has severe damage. Site 4, the northern most dam, has developed holes, cracks, and cave-ins. If Site 4 fails, which is highly likely if stressed by flood

waters, it will cause a domino effect in our whole county. The economic impact from a flood would be devastating to Bronte, and possibly wipe it off the map entirely.

Kickapoo WCID, Coke County Soil and Water Conservation district, the City of Bronte, and the Coke County Commissioners are hard at work trying to make sure this does not

happen. Applications have been submitted to the proper agencies to receive aid in rebuilding and repairing the dams. But what is also needed, perhaps most of all, is the support of the community in these efforts. These will be multimillion-dollar projects that will not only make sure the people of Bronte are safe but bring money into the county, as well.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Friday, February 7

High School Basketball -
Sterling City at Robert Lee, 4 pm
Blackwell at Bronte, 5 pm

Saturday, February 8

Daddy-Daughter Date Night, 5 pm - 8 pm,
Family Life Center, First United Methodist Church, Robert Lee

Monday, February 10

Junior High Basketball -
Bronte at Irion County, 6 pm
San Angelo Cornerstone at Robert Lee, 5 pm
Sterling City at Blackwell, 6 pm

Tuesday, February 11

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

Wednesday, February 12

Storytime, 11 am,
Coke County Library, Robert Lee

Thursday, February 13

Republican Primary Candidate Meet and Greet,
6 pm, The Blue Goose, Downtown Bronte

Friday, February 14

High School Basketball -
Bronte at Irion County, 5 pm
Water Valley at Blackwell, 5 pm

Filing period for local entity elections continues

The filing period for the local government entity elections runs through Friday, February 14, 2020. The elections will be held Saturday, May 2, 2020.

Local entities to be included in the elections are City of Robert Lee, City of Bronte, Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, West Coke County Hospital District, and East Coke County Hospital District.

As of Monday, February 3, 2020, the following have filed for their place on the ballot.

Paul Gohman, City of Bronte Mayor, has filed for re-election, with Gwen Dyess and Tiffany Harendt for seats on the Council. Incumbents Steve Hines and Lee Wommack have not filed.

In the City of Robert Lee elections, Jason Moran has filed for Mayor with Daniel Jasso for a seat on the City Council. The Robert Lee City Council has two seats open - the city vacated by Wyatt Hopson and the seat held by Brandi Brosh.

The seats of Jodie Arrott and John Seales are up for election on the Bronte ISD Board of Trustees, with Jodie Arrott filing for re-election.

Irma Roberts and Jeffie Roberts have both filed for re-election the the Robert Lee ISD Board of Trustees.

(Incumbents Howard Baker, Everett Bedford, and Lanette Fletcher have all filed for re-election to the East Coke County Hospital District Board.

The terms of Pat Stephens, Pat Carwile, and Robert Brock are up for the West Coke County Hospital District Board. No one has filed as of yet.

Those wishing to be included on ballot for one of these elections should visit entity in which they would like to run.

Daddy-Daughter Date Night set for February 8

The annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night is set for Saturday, February 8, from 5 pm until 8 pm at the Robert Lee Methodist Church Family Life Center. The event is for girls in Pre-K through 6th grade and the theme this year is 'Uniquely You'. Tickets will be available at the door.

Republican Candidate Meet and Greets set for next week

A Republican Primary Candidate Meet and Greet has been set up for Thursday, February 13, at 6 pm, in Robert

Lee at the Vision with a Purpose event center on Austin Street across from the Courthouse. Lynette Lucas, Casey Gray, and Ned Luscombe will attend as they are running for the Texas House of Representatives. Incumbent Drew Darby will also be in attendance.

All Republican Primary candidates have been invited to come to the event to speak with their constituents. All Coke County voters are urged to attend.

Storytime to be held at Coke County Library

Storytime will be held at the Coke County Library on Austin Street in Robert Lee on Wednesday, February 12, at 11 am. The book 'Love Splat' by Rob Scotton will be the feature.

The March story will be the classic 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle on March 18.

Valentine's Day Bake Sale slated

RL4Restoration is hosting a Valentine's Day Bake Sale on Friday, February 14. The sale will be held at Robert Lee State Bank and will run from 9 am until sold out. Proceeds from the sale will go towards the playground project at the Coke County Park.

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