

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

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Serving Coke County

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Friday, March 9, 2018

March 6 Primary Election results announced

Results are in for the March 6, 2018, Primary Election. There were only three contested races for local offices and all local candidates filed for the Republican Primary.

In Coke County, a total of 648 people cast votes in the Republican Primary, with 34 casting votes in the Democrat Primary.

In the election for Coke County Judge, Hal Spain won with 472 votes to Sherry Davidson's 148 votes. There were 17 under votes in this race. Current County Judge Roy Blair is retiring.

In the election for Justice of the Peace, Russell Johnson had 314 votes to defeat incumbent

Jackie Walker with 302 votes. There were 18 under votes.

In the election for Commissioner, Precinct 2, Paul Williams, Incumbent, received 97 votes, to Henry Chisholm's 60 votes and Robert Feil's 38 votes. There were 3 under votes. Williams was just short of meeting the 50% + 1 threshold, so there will have to be a run-off in this race. The run-off will be held Tuesday, May 22, 2018. Early voting for the run-off will be held from May 14 through May 18, 2018.

In the election of County Treasurer, Therese Emert received 499 votes and 131 under votes.

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Fire Department! The Bronte Volunteer Fire Department is making great progress on their new fire station. The new building will provide a centralized location for all of the fire department's trucks and equipment, as well as protection from the elements. Local volunteers have been working hard to get the exterior constructed, but they are going to need help from the community to be able to start work on the interior. These volunteer firefighters spend hundreds of hours of their personal time in service to our community, often at the expense of their families and health. They are the first to rush toward the flames or toward a vehicle accident. Now it is time for us to support them! A community-wide fundraiser is being planned for April 21 with preliminary plans for food, music, an auction, and a "gift" registry. If you would like to be a part of a committee to help with this fundraiser, please contact Susan Williams at sjanewilliams53@gmail.com or by phone at (325) 650-1750.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Friday, March 9

High School Track -
Rasco Memorial Relays, Robert Lee
(Bronte, Robert Lee, Blackwell)

Monday, March 12

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, 6 pm,
First Baptist Church, Bronte

Bronte Volunteer Fire Department Meeting,
7 pm, Bronte City Hall

Spring Break -
Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell, CISD

Tuesday, March 13

Commissioners Court Meeting, 9 am,
County Courthouse, Robert Lee

Spring Break -
Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell CISD

Wednesday, March 14

Spring Break -
Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell CISD

Thursday, March 15

Bronte City Council Meeting, 6:30 pm,
Bronte City Hall

Spring Break -
Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell CISD

Friday, March 16

Spring Break -
Bronte ISD, Robert Lee ISD, Blackwell CISD

Letter to the Editor

[Editor's Note: The Sorosis Club meeting article mentioned in the letter below is on Page 2 of this issue of The Observer/Enterprise.]

If you read the small article about the Sorosis Club meeting this month, you will know that Mr. Steve Salmon came and spoke to our ladies club last week. He gave us some information that I want to share with everyone and then I want to make a plea to you.

Our ambulances - yes, both Bronte and Robert Lee - are run by volunteers. Bronte has approximately 15 volunteers on the east side and Robert Lee has approximately only four volunteers on the west side. These volunteers work, have lives, etc. and are expected to

drop everything when there is a 9-1-1 call. I cannot say anything negative about our volunteers. I truly believe that they do their very best! We joked at the Sorosis club meeting and said it's pretty sad when the ambulance crew can qualify to park in the handicapped parking spaces! The ambulance services cannot keep going as they are.

If (and when) the ambulance services cannot meet the needs of our county, the nursing homes WILL close! The state will come in and remove the residents and close the doors to our nursing homes. This hits me very personally because we have family in the Bronte Health and Rehab Center. I don't want my family to have to move 45 minutes from me! I love the fact that she is only two minutes

away. Also, if the nursing homes close, approximately 100 people will be without jobs! Did you read that?! 100 people in our communities will be jobless. Will they have to move to find work? Who will want to move in without any ambulance service and without any jobs for them?

There is a solution out there. I talked with Mr. Salmon and then conferred with Gayle Sisemore at the appraisal district. If we create an "ESD" (Emergency Servicing District), it would replace the volunteer ambulance and will be a paid ambulance service. I asked how would we pay for this? And how much would it cost? Mr. Salmon said the maximum an ESD can charge is 10 cents per \$100 valuation.

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Spring Forward



Remember to set your clocks
ahead one hour before you
go to bed Saturday night.