

VP will present two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors. Seniors will be asked to write essays on their application, along with grade point and community and organization involvement.

Debbie Childers closed the meeting with prayer. The next meeting will be Thursday, April 5 at the Family Life Center at 6 pm. A meal will be served. New and old members are encouraged to attend to make Robert Lee flourish. Helpful hands and lots of ideas are needed.

WCCHD meeting minutes told

by Pat Stephens

The Board of Directors of the West Coke County Hospital District met in regular session on February 27, 2018. President Pat Stephens called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and declared a quorum was present. Board members present were Sarah Green, Pat Carwile and Noel Tinkler. Houston McGuire - RLCC Administrator, Roger Alexander - WCCHD Administrator, Chris Martin - Consultant, Janie Munoz - BOM, and Becca McGuire - DON, were also present at the meeting. The invocation was given by Pat Stephens. There were no visitors. The board minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Beverly Burdett was appointed by the board to fill the vacancy left by Patsy Cason's resignation. She was sworn in by Justice of the Peace, Jackie Walker, and began her duties immediately. The board welcomes Beverly into this position and is looking forward to working with her.

There are 28 residents in the Care Center as of the meeting date. The facility is currently fully staffed.

Accounts Receivable were discussed and Janie says her new schedule is working well.

The Board will review copies of the audit at the next meeting. Roger gave the Board an update on the financials. They were accepted as stated.

There is nothing major occurring with building maintenance at present, just day to day repairs.

Reports were given and discussed concerning QIPP (state sponsored quality improvement program), and also the DSO. The next result for the QIPP program will be this month.

The bank signature cards will be updated this month.

Future agenda items were discussed and the next regular Board meeting will be March 27, 2018. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

Taking a look at the activities calendar for March, the church service at the facility had a good attendance on the March 4, followed by a week of regular daily activities. On March 9 and on March 23 at 3:30 pm, Brandon Broadbent will be having a Bible study in the dining room. The Sing-Along(s) will be on the March and

March 26 at 3:30 pm. There will be a St. Patrick's Day party at 6:30 pm on March 16. The Singing Group "Because He Lives" will be entertaining. The Baptist Co-ed class will sponsor the monthly birthday party on March 20, which happens to be the first day of spring. The birthday honorees this month are Gary Holloway, Billie Dunn, Tommy Hood, Edith Stewart, and Jack Clement. Happy birthday to all! March 30 will find the Easter Bunny hiding eggs for a big Easter Egg Hunt at 3 pm that afternoon, and that will round out the month.

Don't forget to set your clocks to spring forward an hour Saturday night, March 11, and have a very blessed Easter on April 1!

It CAN Be Done

by James M. Decker

"It CAN be done." These words were on a sign kept on the desk of one of Stamford's most accomplished natives, the late Robert Strauss. Raised in Stamford, Strauss went on to found a large international law firm and serve as, among other things, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, trade representative to the President's Cabinet, Middle East peace negotiator, last U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, first Ambassador to the Russian Federation, and an adviser to presidents of both parties for over five decades.

Strauss once told a journalist that the sign on his desk captured his life philosophy: "I really believe things can be done. You have to be optimistic that you can get things done, and usually you can." Robert Strauss passed away in 2014. His achievements exemplify his life philosophy, rising from humble beginnings as the son of immigrant merchants in Stamford, Texas, to a legacy as one of the most influential men in American politics of the post-WWII era. Nothing about his roots limited his vision for his life. He believed it could be done, and so it was. Strauss is an example to rural youth, that they can achieve anything, no matter where they come from.

His philosophy is an inspiration for what we can do in our rural communities as well.



Blowout! Local emergency services responded to this accident scene last week near the intersection of Highway 277 and Highway 70, north of Bronte. The rollover was caused by a blown out tire on this AT&T truck.

I've written in the past about the challenges that rural communities face. Global economic forces are not lined up to support rural communities. We struggle to provide reasons for our young people to return home. Our local resources to maintain and improve our communities are limited and strained. And yet...it CAN be done.

There's an old saying: "whether you believe you can or believe you can't, you're exactly right." If we believe our rural communities are a lost cause, then they are. If we believe something better is coming in their future, then it is. The first step in Strauss's philosophy - "you have to be optimistic that you can get things done" - is a first step each of us should follow. When the going gets tough and we doubt our ability to achieve the progress we envision, we need to take a deep breath and look back on that first step to re-energize ourselves. If Robert Strauss can maintain such optimism in international trade negotiation, Middle Eastern peace talks, and

relationships with the collapsing Soviet Union, we can maintain optimism in rural development.

The optimism displayed in Strauss's life philosophy was not just empty optimism. He once said that his reputation was a result of knowing "the art of making things happen instead of just tilting at windmills." His optimism brought tangible results to the people he worked for and worked with. We must do the same. Unbridled optimism without tangible results eventually becomes silliness, and people will look elsewhere for someone who can provide actual results.

Our vision for our

communities should follow the template set forth by Robert Strauss. First we have to be optimistic that we can get things done. Then, with our passion, dedication, and other necessary resources, we can turn that optimism into tangible results for the betterment of our place and the people in it. That's not to say this task will be simple and easy. Nothing worth achieving ever was. But it CAN be done.

James Decker is a lawyer, farmer, and city councilman in Stamford, and the creator of the forthcoming "West of 98" podcast and website. He may be contacted through Facebook at www.facebook.com/james.decker.

If yew like a good ol' bowl o' steamin' hot chili, partner, yew just mite be a Texan!!!

Come join Robert Lee/Silver Lion's Club for their

7th Annual

CHILI SUPPER

Saturday • March 17

Robert Lee Rec Hall

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm • \$5/Bowl

**Best Chili & fixin's in Coke County!
Come one, Come all!**

Drawing for a door prize!

**Gather up the neighbors
and come on down!!!**

WE'LL BE A-WAITIN'!!!

SAVE THE DATE

May 5th

Downtown and All Around

Get your spot on the map by April 15.

contact Nancy at 432-413-4216

or email vprobortlee@gmail.com

First Saturday in May

TRADE DAYS

Robert Lee

Vision With A Purpose Event