

I would argue that each is an example of my definition. A community finds importance and meaning in each of these examples and finds them a source of dignity and satisfaction. By defining community pride, I hope we are able to understand, measure, and apply it within our communities. We should all take stock and see where we have pride, where we lack it, and how we can improve it. With a little identification and work, a long-standing eyesore can quickly become a newfound source of community pride.

How do you define community pride? Would you change my definition in any way? Does your community have pride? If so, how do you express it? If it is in need of improvement, where can you positively impact that pride?

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 [facebook.com/james.decker](https://www.facebook.com/james.decker).

**Don't Mess with Texas Scholarship Contest open**

Don't mess with Texas Scholarship contest are now being accepted. Eligible applicants include any Texas high school senior currently attending public, private or home school and planning to attend an accredited Texas college or university in the coming year.

Presented in partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful, the Don't mess with Texas Scholarship contest will award one \$6,000 scholarship and two \$2,000 scholarships in June. The scholarships recognize the achievements of high school seniors who take a leadership role in preventing litter in their schools and communities while working to build awareness for the Don't mess with Texas initiative.

"We're proud to offer the Don't mess with Texas

Scholarship to support higher education in Texas and recognize outstanding students who are using their creativity to beautify their communities," said Becky Ozuna, program administrator for TxDOT's Don't mess with Texas campaign.

TxDOT's Don't mess with Texas program has been educating Texans about litter prevention since 1986. The program includes Adopt-a-Highway and a grassroots partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful as well as spring "Trash-Off" community outreach events, all in an effort to keep Texas roadways litter free.

To apply for the Don't mess with Texas Scholarship, visit [dontmesswithtexas.org](http://dontmesswithtexas.org). Applications must be received by online submission or postmarked by 5 pm (CST) April 20, 2018.

**Youth conference helps build leaders**

To help the next generation become leaders and a foundation of the community, Coke-Sterling Farm Bureau invites local high school students to apply for the annual Texas Farm Bureau Youth Leadership Conference (YLC).

YLC is a unique opportunity for young people to engage in patriotism, free enterprise, and leadership opportunities.

"We encourage our youth to take advantage of these opportunities to learn how or American constitution works and engage with other students across Texas," John Ross Copeland, Coke-Sterling Farm Bureau president said. "It's a great chance to develop strong leadership skills."

YLC is set for June 11-15 at Tarleton State University in Stephenville.

Students entering their junior or senior year of high school as of August 2018 are eligible to attend.

Students will participate in breakout sessions on professionalism, public speaking, goal-setting advice, and money



**Board Meeting!** The regular meeting of the Bronte Independent School District Board of Trustees held Monday evening, April 16, 2018, had to be moved from its normal location in the boardroom to the school's library due to the large number of attendees. Much of the audience appeared interested in the superintendent's recommendations regarding personnel contract renewals.

management. They will also hear from career professionals regarding the basics of the free enterprise system and government.

"At YLC our youth will establish lifelong friendships with other high school students across Texas," John Ross Copeland said. "Each year Coke-Sterling Farm Bureau sponsors students to attend YLC, because we believe in the future of our community and our state. We believe in helping our students better themselves with activities that help build character, confidence, and more."

If selected, Coke-Sterling Farm Bureau will cover the expenses and registration. A student does not have to be a Farm Bureau member to attend.

Students who are Farm Bureau members and participate in YLC are eligible

to apply for a college scholarship and able to participate in the Free Enterprise Speech contest the following fall.

Additional details and registration forms can be found online at <http://texasfarmbureau.org/youth/youth-opportunities>.

Applications will be accepted through May 4, 2018.

**Farm Bureau shares learning opportunity with local teachers**

Coke County and Sterling County teachers who are looking to get their hands dirty, have, and earn professional development credit this summer are urged to apply today for Texas Farm Bureau's Summer Agriculture Institute (SAI).

"The Summer Agriculture Institute isn't like other continuing education courses," John Ross Copeland, Coke-Sterling Farm Bureau president

said. "It's an excellent opportunity for teachers to see firsthand what agriculture means to everyone, so they can share that information with their students."

Teachers who attend SAI will receive new curriculum-aligned lesson plans on water, plants, careers, and Texas regions. They'll also receive engaging handouts on beef, corn, cotton, dairy, and other products grown or raised by Texas farmers and ranchers.

"We want to make agriculture fun for students in our community," John Ross said. "We help teachers find ways to incorporate information about our crops and livestock into their lesson plans in a way that really engages students."

The four-day professional development seminar is scheduled for June 4-7 at the Texas Farm Bureau Conference and Training Center in Waco.

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**Important Election Dates**

**Local Entity Elections**

**Early Voting**

April 23, 2018 through May 1, 2018

**Election Day**

Saturday, May 5, 2018

**Primary Run-Off Election**

*(Commissioner, Precinct 2)*

**Early Voting**

May 14, 2018 through May 18, 2018

**Election Day**

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Please welcome our new veterinarian, **Jake McCabe, DVM**, 2005 Robert Lee High School Graduate!

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