



**Coke County Conservation!** Two Bronte ISD students were recognized for their artistic efforts for conservation at the area Soil and Water Conservation District Banquet on March 24, 2022. Lawsynn Sanchez (top photo) was recognized for her award winning poster for and Tatum Ramirez had the winning poster for 2021. Each young lady is pictured with her family who attended the banquet with her.



that noisy children would disturb the quiet of nature within the park. Ultimately, that battle was resolved with the placement of playground equipment on the outer boundaries of the park.

In reading that history, I was hardly impressed with the pretentiousness of the faction that did not want their park “ruined” by children. But when you set aside the parties involved, you can see a reasonable point within both arguments. There is deep value in experiencing nature without a lot of human clutter involved. That is even more true now than it was in the early 20th century - natural spaces are much harder to access for more of our population and are lives are even more cluttered, particularly thanks to screens and digital advancements that are difficult to escape.

But on the flip side, children deserve to have an enjoyable place to get fresh air, exercise, and play with their friends. In a city with miles of concrete, asphalt, and high-rise buildings, or even in a small town, those locations are limited. It is hard not to see the value in placing playgrounds in or around a beautiful park area.

Parks and playgrounds have significant value to our communities, both together and separately. There are cases when a park should include a

playground. There are cases when a park should be focused on nature or the preservation of unique natural features, in which case human disturbance should be minimal. There are other cases where a larger traditional city park is not feasible, but a few pieces of playground equipment can provide recreational opportunities within a neighborhood.

Over the years, I have wondered whether children are “different” now than when I was young. I have been told that children would rather stay inside all day. Having watched my three-year-old daughter and her friends explore playground equipment like any child of the 1980s or 1990s, I am confident that children still value those experiences. And based on our summer attendance figures at our city pool (many of whom traveled there by foot), it seems that plenty of children are still thrilled by outdoor recreation.

Parks matter. Playgrounds matter. Communities should recognize the distinction between the two and find the best way to invest in both.

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### WCCHD board of directors meeting minutes told

By Pat Stephens

The Board of Directors of the West Coke County Hospital District met in regular session March 29, in the Board Conference Room. President Beverly Burdett called the meeting to order at 9:35 am and declared a quorum was present. Pat Stephens led the invocation. Board members present were Pat Stephens, Judie Andrews, Betty Lewis and Noel Tinkler. Houston McGuire, Administrator, Janie Munoz, BOM, Chris Martin, Consultant, and Roger Alexander, Consultant, were also present at the meeting.

The minutes from the previous meetings were approved. Absent board member were excused and there were no visitors.

An update on the signage for the dedication of the gazebo was given to the board by Harriet Demere.

The Administrator gave his report.

In the staffing update, there are applications out for CNA’s, an RN, and a janitor. There are currently 41 residents as of the meeting date.

Covid testing is back to a monthly basis for those who have not had the shots.

Danco Electric is still waiting

on parts for the electrical work.

In landscaping update, residents are already enjoying the new gazebo. Furniture for it is pending, compliments of the Friends of the Robert Lee Care Center.

The board voted to cancel the election since there was only one applicant for board member.

The financial report was discussed and Houston will email corrections to the board.

The board discussed moving ahead with outside renovations. Clay Crooks is coming to finalize a quote for the outside of the facility. We are waiting on a bid to repair sprinkler system from Cross Cuts Landscaping.

Advertising signage, made by Bar 7 Metal Works, owned and operated locally by Rick Drennan, has been placed

at Mountain Creek Golf Course in Robert Lee.

The facility vehicle signage has been completed.

The phone system is working well.

The Employee Handbook will be discussed at the next meeting.

Future agenda items were discussed.

The board meeting then adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be April 26, 2022, in the Board Conference Room.

After adjournment, the board enjoyed a wonderful lunch provided by the facility kitchen staff for the first time in two years! They have NOT lost their touch! It was delicious.

The April calendar kicked off with entertainment provided by Curtis Sheldon last Friday.

*(Continued on next page)*

**Please Pray for our Communities,  
Our County, Our State and Our Country**



***And Don’t Forget to Pray for Rain!***

## HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

*All facilities of this bank  
will close at 1:00 pm  
Friday, April 15*

In Observance Of



**Good  
Friday**

Please plan your banking requirements during regular banking hours to avoid any inconvenience.

**Robert Lee State Bank**

Member FDIC  
453-2545  
Robert Lee, Texas