...WCCHD meeting minutes

(Continued from previous page)
What a great way to start a month! On Mondays at 3:30 pm, there will be some good ol' fashioned singing and everyone is invited to join the fun! Church services are at 3:30 pm on Sunday afternoons, provided by various local churches. There will be a Spring Hat Parade on April 14 at 3:30 pm, followed by a resident Easter egg hunt at 3:30 pm on April 15. The monthly birthday party

will be on April 19 at 3:30 pm. Those celebrating birthdays this month are Virginia McMillan, Chofe Brown, and Ann Privit. Happy birthday to all!!!

The Resident Council meeting will be at 3 pm on April 26, and all the gardeners will be out busily planting tomatoes and peppers on April 28. Entertainment by Jim Gross will be on April 29 at 3:30 pm to round out the month. Wishing everyone a very blessed Easter!! Pray for rain!

Friends of the RLCC meeting held

The Friends of the Robert Lee Care Center March meeting was held on Monday, March 28, at 10 am, in the WCCHD Board Room. There were 10 members present.

Minutes of the February meeting and the treasurer's report were presented and approved.

Harriett Ann Demere reported from the Gazebo Project Committee that modifications have been made to the proposed dedication sign and she will present them to the WCCHD board at their meeting tomorrow.

Della Alexander reported that the Music Memory program has been turned back over to the Care Center as the older technology used in the past can no longer be updated to create new song lists. Mary Rodriquez and Houston McGuire are going to do some checking for alternatives which other facilities may be using.

Members were reminded that officer election is coming up in May and at this time there are not any candidates who have come forth to replace the current officers.

Plans were discussed and approved to have the Friends of the RLCC provide tea cookies and red carnations for the resident Mother's Day Tea to be held on Friday, May 6.

Members present discussed and approved the holding of a

July 4th bake sale. The event will be held at the Austin Street Coffee House on Friday, July 1.

Pat Stephens presented a proposal for a new project, which would be for the FRLCC to purchase flowers to restock the multiple planters in the front area of RLCC. Discussion was held and a motion made to allot \$300 to be used for this project. motion was approved. Flowers will be purchased and any member wanting to participate in the planting and care of the flowers can contact Stephens.

A suggestion was made by one of the members that we remind the public that we are a 501(c)(3) organization and memorials and donations are accepted to help with our goal of enhancing the lives of the RLCC residents.

The next meeting of the Friends of the Robert Lee Care Center will be held on Monday, April 25.

Notes from...



Prevent the spread of oak wilt in Texas this spring

Oak wilt is one of the deadliest tree diseases in the United States, killing millions of trees in 76 counties of Central,

North and West Texas, and we can help prevent it from spreading.

Prevention is key to stopping the spread of oak wilt. Any new wound can be an entry point for infection including those produced by pruning, construction activities, livestock, land or "cedar" clearing, lawnmowers, string trimmers and storms.

"With wounds being the best entry point for the disease, landowners should avoid pruning or wounding trees from February through June,"said Demian Gomez, Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Forest Health Coordinator. "And no matter the time of year, to decrease the attractiveness of fresh wounds to insects, always paint oak tree wounds."

Oak wilt is caused by the fungus Bretziella fagacearum. The fungus invades the xylem - the water-conducting vessels of the trees - and the tree responds by plugging the tissues, resulting in a lack of water to the leaves, slowly killing the infected tree.

All oaks are susceptible to oak wilt. Red oaks are the most susceptible and can die in as little as one month after being infected. Live oaks show intermediate susceptibility but can spread the disease easily due to their interconnected root systems. White oaks are the least susceptible, but they are not immune to infection.

Oak wilt can spread two ways above ground or underground. The disease is spread above ground more rapidly this time of year, in late winter and spring, because of high fungal mat production and high insect populations. During this time, red oaks that died of the disease last summer and fall may produce spore mats under the bark. With a fruity smell, these mats attract small, sap-feeding beetles that can later fly to a fresh wound of any oak tree and infect it, starting a new oak wilt center.

The second way oak wilt can spread is underground by

Royalty! Robert Lee High School recently announced their 2022 Prom Royalty. Gavin Freeman was named the King and Heather Huapilla named as Queen.

traveling through interconnected root systems from tree to tree. Oak wilt spreads an average of 75 feet per year by the root system. This occurs primarily in live oaks and is responsible for the majority of spread and tree deaths in Central Texas.

Oak wilt is often recognized in live oaks by vellow and brown veins showing in leaves of infected trees, known as venial necrosis. Currently, it may be difficult to diagnose oak wilt due to seasonal transitioning of oak leaves in the spring - when evergreen oak trees shed their old leaves while simultaneously growing new leaves. The signs of oak wilt can be seen on a majority of leaves when a tree is fully infected. Landowners should contact a certified arborist if they are unsure if their tree is infected.

"For red oaks particularly, one of the first symptoms of oak wilt is leaves turning red or brown during the summer," said Gomez. "While red oaks play a key role in the establishment of new disease centers, live oaks and white oaks move oak wilt through root grafts."

To stop the spread of oak wilt through the root system, trenches can be placed around a group of trees, at least 100 feet away from the dripline of infected trees and at least four feet deep, or deeper, to sever all root connections.

Another common management method for oak wilt is through fungicide injection. The injections only protect individual trees injected and best candidates for this treatment are healthy, non-symptomatic oaks up to 100 feet away from symptomatic trees.

Other ways to help prevent oak wilt are: plant other tree species to createa variety in the area; avoid moving oak firewood before it is seasoned; and talk with your neighbors about creating a community prevention plan for oak wilt.

(Continued on page 6)

