

**Essay Winner announced**

Erin Smith, a 2017 Robert Lee High School senior and daughter of Monte and Janice Smith, was the winner of the Vision with a Purpose July 4 essay contest. She received a scholarship of \$250.

Her essay is included below.

**What the Fourth of July Means to Me**

By Erin Smith

The Fourth of July is a special holiday for me. It is a time spent with friends and family. Our family has been celebrating the Fourth of July together for many generations.

Aunts, Uncles and cousins all across Texas come to Silver, Texas to celebrate.

We start early in the morning with an old fashion campfire breakfast. Sausage, bacon, fried Texas toast, scrambled eggs and coffee just taste better when they are cooked outside. Prickly Pear jelly and Cousin Lonnie's honey are also served. Breakfast is barely over when it's time to start the next meal.

Fried Catfish is a beloved family tradition. My family used to spend weeks before the 4th running trotlines on the Colorado River. We went several years without the fish fry until my Dad decided he was going to provide the fish. My Mom and Dad spend several week-ends catching fish until we had enough to feed everyone that Fourth of July. There were 49 family members and plenty of fish to go around. When it's time to cook, the assembly line starts and the fish fry is on.

Meanwhile, the kids are playing games or swimming in the stock tank. The adult kids are pitching horseshoes. The older generation is visiting, telling stories and reminiscing about those family members who are no longer with us. We all feel their spirits here with us celebrating the Fourth of July just like they always did.

When I lived in Austin, I would spend summers with my grandparents. One of my most cherished memories is the look on my Granddaddy's face when the daylight would fall and we would set off fireworks. Granddaddy's face would light up with the beautiful colors of the fireworks in the night sky.

Once the catfish is fried and everyone has eaten their fill, it's time to break out the musical instruments and warm up the

family band. We play old country, blue grass, and gospel. One of my personal favorites is Golden Rings. When I was in the sixth grade I started to play the violin in orchestra. That first Fourth of July after learning to play, my Mom insisted that I play along with everyone. I was a nervous wreck because I was just a beginner and I was afraid I would mess up. My cousins welcomed me and my violin with open arms and I loved it. And just like that, my violin became a fiddle.

So, for me, the Fourth of July means celebrating life with those I love. I thank God and our forefathers for the freedoms we have that allow me to experience this joy. I am storing precious memories that will be with me forever and hope that I can pass on these traditions to my future children. I wouldn't change my crazy, weird and loving family for the world

Happy Fourth of July.

**Vision with a Purpose holds monthly meeting**

Vision With A Purpose held its monthly meeting July 7 at Victory Assembly of God. Prior to the general meeting, Floyd Pettit met with the Long Range Planning Committee. Discussed were building updates, new benches to be distributed in Robert Lee and the Mountain Creek Golf Course. Also needed are lights for Memorial Park and flag memorial plaques. It was decided that monies needed for these projects will not come from the VP budget, but will be raised independently.

Following the Long Range meeting, the monthly general meeting was held with President Marshall Millican opening the meeting and Floyd Pettit offering a prayer.

Sabrina Nunez read minutes of the last meeting and they were approved.

Crystal Stanford presented the Treasurer's report and it was approved.

The Building and Maintenance Committee member Todd Smith presented the latest update on the VP headquarters. Part of the floor is torn out and pictures of the structure are being presented to an engineer.

The Hunter's BarBQ committee will be sending letters to merchants for contributions. The event will be held November 12, 2016.

Sons of Pitches Softball



**Essay Winner!** Erin Smith, an upcoming senior at Robert Lee High School, was the winner of the Vision with a Purpose July 4 essay contest Marshall and Sheri Millican presented Erin with her scholarship award. Erin is the daughter of Monte and Janice Smith.

Tournament, set for August 5-6, has decided to work with First Methodist Church's youth group and have them man the concessions for their building project, the new Family Life Center.

Noel and Clark Tinkler installed the latest bricks in Memorial Park.

Nancy Wilson decorated the planters on Austin St. and around town with July 4th decorations.

Todd Smith told the Beautification committee that new benches will be placed in Memorial Park. Concrete will be poured for the benches.

It was noted that the planters must be watered more now that we are into the hot summer season.

Todd and Renee Smith were thanked for putting out the American flags for July 4th.

Doug Harvey gave an update on the electronic sign in the park. He said the signal connection needs to be updated.

Debbie Childers presented

fund raising ideas for the headquarters that were heartily approved by the membership.

Debbie Childers presented Heart Worker awards for the months of June and July. For the month of June, Beverly Broughton was presented with the award. She served on many committees and is always giving great ideas. She also recently became an American Citizen. She has her own baking business and is always providing VP with homemade goodies.

Also, Heart Workers for the month of July were Nancy Wilson and Doug Harvey. Nancy is resident "Decorator" for VP. Most all of the decorations have been designed and erected by Nancy. Her talent runs the spectrum of Easter, 4th of July, Christmas and all other seasons.

Doug has been behind almost all of electrical, computer and construction projects for VP; he's a man of all talents. His vast knowledge has provided much help.

Gaylon Childers closed the meeting with prayer.

The Christmas Committee met after the general meeting. Present were Renee Smith, Noel Tinkler, Kay Hurst, Beverly Broughton, Leta Caston, Jan Pettit, Grace Todacheeny and Dianne Hefner.

**Directory for the Robert Lee Cemetery**

**\$25. Checks only. Available at Merle Norman. 9 E. 6th St. Robert Lee**

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