

# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

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## Officials lay out Robert Lee's water situation to large concerned crowd

By Melinda McCutchen,

Publisher

Several hundred people, representing the vast majority of Robert Lee's adult citizens, filled the Robert Lee ISD cafetorium Tuesday evening, August 9, 2011, for a town meeting about Robert Lee's critical water supply situation.

Addressing the crowd were Robert Lee Mayor John Jacobs; Valree Thompson, a consultant from Municipal Consulting Agency; Tammy Fulton representing Texas Small Towns Environment Program (S.T.E.P.); and Steve Dennis and James Busby, engineers with Burgess and Niple Engineering.

The engineers project Robert Lee's current water supply to last until January 1, 2012, and possibly through March of that year. Water is being pumped around the clock from Lake Spence into Mountain Creek Lake. The reason for this transference is two-fold. One reason is that Mountain Creek is smaller and therefore, will not allow as much evaporation. The other reason is that no other entities can pump water from Mountain Creek Lake. Mr. Dennis advised that it would take 60 days to finish filling Mountain Creek Lake and at current consumption and evaporation rates, that water would sustain Robert Lee for eight months. The 35% reduction in consumption has

been reached by the citizens of Robert Lee and no further restrictions are planned at this time.

It became clear through the question and answer session that Colorado River Municipal Water District was the main culprit in Robert Lee's short-term water deficit. Three times in the last couple of years, CRMWD has promised to quit pumping water to other municipalities once a certain level was reached at Lake Spence, and three times, they continued to pump water out of Lake Spence. Member cities of CRMWD include Odessa, Big Spring, Snyder, and Robert Lee. A few of the customer cities are Midland, San Angelo, Abilene, and Stanton.

The City of Robert Lee is taking the steps to provide for the current emergency water situation with a pipeline from Bronte. The pipeline project should run \$1.55 million. The goal is to begin construction of the pipeline in mid-November. If contractors working around the clock were used to build the pipeline, it would take approximately 60 days to complete. The City of Bronte has agreed to sell Robert Lee 200,000 gallons of water each day during this emergency. This water will come from Oak Creek Lake and several water wells that Bronte has drilled in recent years. With the 35% reduction of Robert Lee's

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**Huge Crowd!** A huge crowd filled the RLISD cafetorium for the town water meeting Tuesday evening, August 9, 2011.

### Observer/Enterprise to begin including Blackwell CISD news and information

Beginning with this issue, the *Observer/Enterprise* will begin reporting Blackwell school news. This will include honor rolls, sporting articles, pictures, school menus, senior edition, etc.

The Blackwell Hornets will also have a signature page for the football team like the Bronte Longhorns and the Robert Lee Steers. This page will have the football schedule, scores of all games, date and location of games, homecoming, and boys' names.

The page will begin running the week of the first football game and will run weekly throughout football season. Like the other signature pages, it will need sponsors.

Please call the Observer/Enterprise office at (325) 453-2433 if you would like to help sponsor the Blackwell Hornet signature page.

### Rep. Blake Farenthold Names New Chief of Staff

Rep. Blake Farenthold (TX 27) named Scott Graves as his Chief of Staff. Graves is from Bronte, Texas, his parents are Jerry and Susan Graves. Graves is a graduate of Texas Tech University with a B.S. in Agriculture and Applied Economics; he also earned his M.A. from the National Defense University in Strategic Security Studies.

"I am proud to have a fellow Texan join my team to serve South Texas. Scott's background in agriculture, institutional knowledge, and grasp of issues that are important to Texas will be an immense asset to my office," said Farenthold.

Prior to joining Rep. Farenthold's office, Graves worked on the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture, and for Rep. Mike Conaway from 2005 through July, 2011.

"Although I am saddened to leave Congressman Conaway's office after over six years of service to my friends and neighbors in District 11, I am excited about the opportunity to work for Congressman Farenthold. As a native Texan I look forward to working with a talented Member who proudly represents the people of Texas' 27th Congressional District," said Graves.

The Texas 27th Congressional District is located on the Gulf Coast between Corpus Christi and the Mexican border.

### Casey Eubanks Golf Tourney set for Saturday

The Casey Eubanks Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Saturday at Mountain Creek Golf Course in Robert Lee. The 3 person tourney will begin at 9 am.

For more information, call 453-2317.

### Football Scrimmages



ROBERT LEE STEERS

vs.

Westbrook Wildeats

9 am • Saturday, August 13 • Westbrook

BRONTE LONGHORNS

vs.

Rotan Yellowhammers

9:00 am • Saturday, August 13 • Bronte



BLACKWELL HORNETS

vs.

Jayton Jaybirds

6 pm • Friday, August 12 • Blackwell



# SCHOOL BEGINS

Blackwell,  
Bronte & Robert Lee  
August 22