

# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

Single Copy 50¢



(USPS 467-480)  
(ISSN 8750-197X)

Vol. 123, No. 32

Friday, February 25, 2011

## City of Robert Lee reports on local water situation

Submitted by the City of Robert Lee

The Robert Lee City Hall reports that the boil-water notice is still in effect and understands that some citizens are becoming anxious about the water issue in Robert Lee. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is working closely with Robert Lee, the mayor, and its employees to remedy the problem as fast as possible.

The problem began when the pipes and pumps at the water plant froze. One of the chemicals being used changes formation in below freezing temperatures. That, plus broken pipes, is what brought on the boil-water notice. The TCEQ monitors all city water systems weekly through samples that must be submitted. By TCEQ standards, when turbidity reaches a certain point, the agency issues a boil-water command. Robert Lee is not the only small city that has been required to follow these orders. The Abilene TV stations frequently run boil-water notices in the area during their news hours.

A public notice required by TCEQ will appear in the paper this week. It explains the technical aspect of the Robert Lee water situation. The Robert Lee city employees and the mayor spent many hours in the freezing weather to do what they could at the plant to get water restored. They also are dependent on Robert Lee water and want the best situation for their families and friends.

TCEQ requires that following a boil notice, the entire system be flushed and a series of samples taken. Due to the water supply issue, the treatment plant will be flushed internally instead of externally (flushing hydrants). Although saving water, this will add an additional five to seven days before the boil notice can be lifted.

Robert Lee City Hall is working closely with engineers, the Water Development Board, and TCEQ to remedy the water

problems. Lake Spence is very low, but according to officials, the water is treatable.

Only one percent of all the water in the world is drinkable. The more water is used, the more treatment is needed. Robert Lee's problem is not an isolated one, nor is it a recent problem.

A story appeared in the Observer/Enterprise in 1971 when Wilson Bryan was mayor, discussing how best to plan for water in Robert Lee. The problem then was the fact that Lake Spence was not filling up as fast as expected. Those citizens who have lived in Robert Lee a long time are aware of the ever-present water issues that have been dealt with in the past.

(Continued on page 2)

### Filing continues in local government entity elections

Monday, February 14, 2011, was the first day to file for places on the ballot in the upcoming local entities elections. Filing will be allowed until March 14, 2011. The election will be held Saturday, May 14, 2011.

There are two two-year city council member terms on the ballot for the City of Bronte. Currently, these offices are held by Misty Bedford and Paula McWright. Both incumbents have filed for re-election.

There are three two-year city council member terms on the ballot for the City of Robert Lee. These offices are held by Janie Munoz, Gary Payne and Troy Wimberly. Currently, no one has filed for a place on the ballot.

There are two two-year Board of Director terms on the ballot for the West Coke County Hospital District. Currently, these offices are held by Mary Bessent and Dessie Kendall. Both incumbents have filed for re-election.

There are two two-year Board of Director terms on the ballot for the East Coke County Hospital District. Currently, these offices are held by Doris Sims and Alonzo Robbins. Both



**Seal Honored with Award!** Mrs. Dolores Seal (right) receives her National Weather Service 40 year Length of Service Award. Presenting the award during a ceremony held in San Angelo Tuesday, February 15, was Steve Lyons, MIC at WFO in San Angelo and Eva Mullen HMT (left) at WFO in San Angelo. Mrs. Seal has been a faithful volunteer reporting rainfall and severe weather as it occurs. The National Weather Service uses the information for forecasts and warnings.

incumbents have filed for re-election.

There are two three-year Board of Trustee terms on the ballot for the Bronte Independent School District. Currently, these offices are held by Paul Williams and David McWright. Mr. McWright has filed for re-election. Ray Barnett and Andra Arrott have filed for places on the ballot.

(Continued on page 2)

### RL Hispanic Cemetery Assn. meeting set

The Robert Lee Hispanic Cemetery Association will hold a meeting Monday, February 28, at Robert Lee City Hall. The meeting is set for 5:30 pm. Everyone interested is encouraged to attend.

### Genealogical sessions to continue

Monday, February 28, the genealogical classes will examine the information learned from Bibles, cemeteries, churches, clubs and organizations. Also the information that can be gleaned from old newspaper abstracts. Though these records are considered secondary information by someone searching

their family tree, they are very important.

Family members and even friends of the members have a wealth of information and might just have a letter put aside that came from an ancestor. The group will discuss the type of interviews to hold.

All attending should bring information of one ancestor. A lineage (also called a pedigree) chart and family group sheet would be very helpful but not necessary.

The classes are from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Coke County Library and are open to all. Attendance for each session is not necessary and newcomers are always welcomed. A repeat of classes will also be held following the first series. Any questions should be directed to Fran Lomas at 453-2894 or Beth Prather at the library.

### Relay for Life meeting set for March 1

There will be a meeting Tuesday, March 1, for anyone interested in participating in the Coke County Relay For Life. The meeting will be at the West Central Wireless office in Robert Lee at 5:30

pm. All committee members, Team Captains and team members are encouraged to attend. The CC Relay For Life will be held on April 29-30, 2011, at the RLHS track and football field.

### Red Hat Society to meet March 3

The Red Hat Mamas (Red Hat Society) will meet at 11 am Thursday, March 3, at Rangels in Robert Lee. If you wish to carpool, be at the bank parking lot in Bronte by 10:40.

You are welcome to join this group where there is fun after fifty (and before) for women of all walks of life. What a fun group we are! Red Hat is one of the things that we really look forward to -- no dues, no rules, no business, no nothing really, but lots of good fun, food and fellowship. Hope to see you there.

Ladies under fifty usually wear something lavender and wear a pink hat. At or over 50, we usually wear something purple and wear a red hat. You can't miss us. Don't have a hat? Come join us for lunch anyway.