

characters that would stand tall in the Western literary pantheon, but as we glorify them, we should not forget who and what they were.

Next week, I will close out this series with my final thoughts on why the cowboy mythos and its idolatry is both deeply frustrating and deeply

inspirational to me.

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## Friends of the RLCC meeting held

The March meeting of the Friends of the Robert Lee Care Center was held on Monday, March 27, at 10 am with 10 members and one guest present. The meeting was called to order by President, Della Alexander.

Minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer's report were read and approved.

Harriett Ann Demere reported that the gazebo dedication plaque has been ordered from Angelo Awards. Once the plaque is completed the Gazebo Committee will price garden benches to have the plaque mounted and placed by the gazebo.

Della Alexander reported that the resident birthday party on March 21 was well attended and the residents enjoyed the pineapple angel food cake and pineapple punch.

Della also shared that the carnations for Mother's Day will be available for purchase from Nomad Floral Design.

The hummingbird feeder project is moving right along. Five gallon buckets were obtained from the laundry at the Care Center and taken to Robin Allen at Classy Creations who painted them. The buckets were available at the meeting for those present to see what a great job Robin did. Roma McCarley will now take the buckets and get the rods to hold the hummingbird hangers cemented into them. When she brings them back to the Care

Center, Mary Rodriguez will post pictures of the finished product on Facebook.

Mary Rodriguez shared how much the residents have enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day tree decorations. She would like some assistance in purchasing Easter Tree decorations. A motion was made and passed to provide up to \$200 to assist in purchasing Easter decorations.

Pat Stephens shared with those present that she has purchased a few artificial flowers and put in the planters at the front entry to the facility. She recommended that the auxiliary invest more this year in artificial flowers than live plants. The live plants were very difficult to care for and keep alive last year. A motion was made and passed to provide up to \$400 toward this project.

With no other new business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am. The April meeting will be held on Monday, April 24.

### Summer Ag Academies open to Texas educators

By Emmy Powell  
Communications Specialist

Five workshops are open to Texas educators this summer. Each workshop will help teachers connect agriculture through science and hands-on activities.

The Summer Ag Academies, hosted by Texas Farm Bureau (TFB), offer teachers practical experience in agriculture-related

concepts, and they can take home free resources to use in their classrooms.

"Summer Ag Academies take place in various locations across the state each year. These are one or two-day opportunities that allow teachers an opportunity to learn about various agricultural topics and how to incorporate agriculture into the classroom without having to necessarily travel too far," said Jordan Bartels, TFB associate director of Organization Division, Educational Outreach.

The workshops are designed to give teachers the opportunity to experience agriculture and how it relates to what they are teaching in the classroom.

These learning opportunities are open to active K-12 Texas teachers and pre-service teachers who are currently enrolled in a college or university education program.

TFB will also host a Summer Ag Academy specifically for homeschool educators.

The details for each of the Summer Ag Academies are below:

#### Wichita Falls – July 11

Focus: Dairy

Eligibility: K-12 Texas teachers teaching in a public school; accredited non-public elementary and secondary educational institution; pre-service teachers enrolled in an education program at a college or university in Texas

#### Bryan – July 18

Focus: Animal genetics

Eligibility: 6-12th-grade Texas teachers teaching in a public school; accredited non-public elementary and secondary educational institution; pre-service teachers enrolled in an education program at a college or university in Texas

#### Dallas – July 20

Focus: Urban agriculture, water research, turf grass research and hydroponics



**District/County Clerk!** Jennifer Burdett (right) was sworn in as the new District/County Clerk for Coke County in a ceremony at the courthouse on Friday, March 31, 2023. Mrs. Burdett was named to the position as a joint announcement of the Coke County Commissioners' Court and the District Judge's office. She is replacing Monica Reyes, who has taken a similar position in Midland, Texas. District Judge Carmen Dusek (left) was on hand to swear in the new appointee.

Eligibility: K-12 Texas teachers teaching in a public school; accredited non-public elementary and secondary educational institution; pre-service teachers enrolled in an education program at a college or university in Texas

#### Sinton – July 27

Focus: Harvesting/Planting

Eligibility: K-12 Texas teachers teaching in a public school; accredited non-public elementary and secondary educational institution; pre-service teachers enrolled in an education program at a college or university in Texas

#### Waco – Aug. 11-12

Focus: How to incorporate agriculture in homeschool education

Eligibility: Homeschool educators only  
Registration closes two weeks prior to each event.

There is no cost to attend the academies, but each event is limited to 40 participants.

Site visits will also be incorporated into each Summer Ag Academy to help teachers build an understanding of Texas agriculture.

"Site visits are a wonderful opportunity for teachers to see agriculture in action," Bartels said. These visits allow teachers to gain a unique experience that they can take back to their classrooms to share with their students and relate to what they are teaching."

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