

## THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Published Weekly

The Observer/Enterprise, LLC  
(325) 277-9210

observerenterprise@gmail.com

www.ObserverEnterprise.com

Periodical Rate Postage paid at Robert Lee, Texas

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to  
Observer/Enterprise

PO Box 1329, Robert Lee, Texas 76945

### STAFF

Morgan McCutchen, Publisher/Editor

Ashley McCutchen Braswell, Social Media Coordinator

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per Year in Coke County ... \$35.00

Per Year Elsewhere in Texas ... \$40.00

Per Year Outside of Texas ... \$45.00

# UPCOMINGS!

## Fort Chadbourne to host event September 16

Fort Chadbourne will be hosting "An Evening with Barry Corbin" on Saturday, September 16. Tickets include

dinner, show, and a question and answer period with Barry after the show. All proceeds benefit the Fort Chadbourne Foundation.

For more information, contact Fort Chadbourne at (325) 743-2555 or (325) 743-2556.

## Death Notices

### Austin

Delmar Henry Austin was welcomed home by his Lord and Savior on July 6, 2023.

Del is survived by his loving wife, Candy Austin, who selflessly cared for him through the years. Left to carry on his legacy of love are his children, Susan Swanson and husband, Gordon of Waco, Terry Austin and wife, Laurie of Bronte, Kathy Parnell and husband, Mike of Grandview, Joey Austin and wife, Lauren of Spring Branch; stepchildren, Brandie Brucks and husband, Cory of Hondo, Kim Britsch of Alamo

Heights; sisters, Ruth Fields and Darlene Lang of Waco; brother, James Austin and wife, Carolyn of Waco. Papa Del adored his grandchildren, Tiffany McFarling, Kylie Barbin, Tommy Swanson, Andrea Swanson, Emily Davidson, Katie Moody, Ryan Parnell, Shelley Miller, Ashleigh Godwin, Miles Austin, Karrington Alarid, Campbell Austin, Lincoln Austin, Kelsie Brucks, Kallie Brucks, Corbyn Britsch and Ella Britsch. Papa Del was blessed with 19 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. He is also survived by his beloved grey team roping horse, James.

His life will be celebrated on Sunday, July 23, at 1 pm, at Elsass Hall, 1201 Fiorella Street, Castroville, Texas 78009.

## Right to farm and ranch to be on November ballot

Texas voters can help protect the right to farm and ranch in the Lone Star State this fall.

Since HJR 126, a proposed constitutional amendment, was overwhelmingly passed by the Texas Legislature, the measure will be on the November ballot.

The constitutional amendment, by Rep. DeWayne Burns and Sen. Charles Perry, specifies people have the right to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices on real property they own or lease.

"This constitutional amendment will help ensure that Texans have access to safe and affordable food in the future by strengthening the right to farm and ranch protections," John Ross Copeland, Coke-Sterling County Farm Bureau president, said. "It also protects the public from any real danger, and it protects animal care. Plus, it

protects water, fish and wildlife, trees and other natural resources, as well as protects crops from diseases and pests."

John Ross urges Texans to support the amendment this fall. "It protects farmers and ranchers from regulatory overreach to sustain food and fiber production for our state's rapidly expanding population,"

John Ross said. "Now that the protections will be on the November ballot, we encourage all Texans to get out and vote to strengthen the right to farm and ranch in Texas." He noted the amendment does not affect the authority of the legislature to intervene where there is clear evidence of need to protect public health and safety. It also does not affect the authority of the legislature to authorize means to prevent a danger to animal health or crop production.

"Farming and ranching in Texas is becoming more difficult as our state population grows and Texans get more disconnected from how we provide them with food, fiber and fuel," John Ross said. "Voting for this constitutional amendment is a vote for to help protect and sustain agriculture in our great state, which in turn helps all Texans."

## Register for Young Farmer & Rancher Fall Tour

By Julie Tomascik  
TFB Editor

Young producers will get a look at agriculture in the Hill Country through the 2023 Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Fall Tour. It's an opportunity for farmers and ranchers between the ages of 18 and 35 to meet with fellow producers and learn about other agricultural perspectives.

This year's tour is set for Sept. 8-10 in Kerrville and will focus on wildlife, vineyards, orchards and hay production.

"The Fall Tour is a great opportunity for young farmers, ranchers and ag professionals to relax, network and learn about agriculture in a different part of the state," Adrienne Synatschk, TFB YF&R Advisory Committee chair, said. "This is a fun and educational event, and we're excited to host it in the Hill Country this year."

The impact of commodity and consumer sales, as well as tourism, in the Hill Country plays a crucial role in the state's economy.

"Visiting this area of Texas will give young agricultural professionals—farmers, ranchers, business owners, teachers or anyone interested in agriculture—a glimpse into what makes the Hill Country unique," Syntaschk said.

The three-day tour will feature

farm and ranch visits, discussions on wildlife and opportunities to network with other participants.

"We need more young people to farm, ranch and work in agricultural businesses and other fields that support the production of food, fiber and fuel," Synatschk said. "The Fall Tour is a great way to meet other young people and learn from each other to take home new ideas and new strategies that we can implement."

Registration closes August 3.

## Rural Texas - already starved for health care - faces a dearth of volunteer first responders

By Jayme Lozano Carver

After a tornado barreled through the small town of Matador last month, volunteers mobilized to pick up the pieces — so many that the town was closed by law enforcement the following day.

The scene of neighbors helping neighbors sift through debris offered a fresh reminder that in lonely stretches of rural Texas, help after a natural disaster, a house fire or a heart attack is likely to come in the form of volunteers.

An abundance of volunteers, however, is not commonplace. In fact, in nearby Olton, the volunteers who answer the pleas of their fellow residents are worn out and ready to hang up their boots. There is uncertainty

There are two registration packages participants may select from that will include lodging, meals, transportation and the cost of all tours. A third registration package is available for those who do not require lodging.

County Farm Bureaus may help cover the cost of attending the Fall Tour.

Interested members can learn more about registration costs and register for the tour online at [texasfarmbureau.org/YFR](http://texasfarmbureau.org/YFR).

about who will refill the ranks.

"We're getting older and some of us would like to slow down, we've got a couple that's going to retire this year, so that's on our minds all the time," said Jimmy Brooks, director of the Olton Volunteer Ambulance Association. "We just do the best we can with what we've got, and we'll continue to do that as long as we can."

Rural fire trucks and ambulances have long been staffed by neighbors and friendly, familiar faces in the community. The will to volunteer can be seen in the face of disasters, but finding consistent volunteers to staff those critical resources is a challenge in rural communities and nationwide.

In 2020, 65% of U.S. firefighters

## Area Churches Invite You to Worship

### Bronte

#### Bronte Church of Christ

PO Box 346  
118 S. Jefferson • Bronte  
Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

#### Central Baptist Church

324 S. Franklin • Bronte  
(325) 473-4811  
Dale Patterson, Pastor  
Sun. 10 am Sunday School  
11 am & 5 pm Worship

#### First Baptist Church

424 S. Washington • Bronte  
(325) 473-2331  
firstbronte@gmail.com

Pastor George Cooper  
Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,  
10:30 am Worship  
Wednesday 6 pm - 8 pm  
Children and Youth

#### Bronte Methodist Church

Corner of Washington & Holmes  
Bronte • (325) 650-4836  
Pastor Keith Fletcher  
Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship

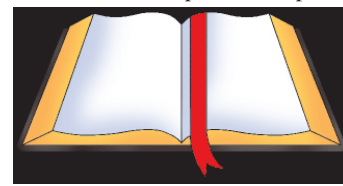
#### St. James Catholic Church

215 N. Washington, Bronte  
(325) 365-2687  
Rev. Timothy Hayter, Pastor  
Sunday Bilingual Mass 8 am  
4C Cowboy Church  
Drawer R • Bronte • (325) 895-4080  
Robert Lemmond, Pastor  
Sunday, 10:30 am - Texas Theater  
Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm -  
4C Feedlot Youth Building

### Coke County

#### Pecan Baptist

PO Box 542 • 12 miles West of  
Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy  
(325) 453-2065, Bill Hood, Pastor  
www.pecanbaptistchurchrl.com  
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School  
11 am & 7 pm, Worship



### Robert Lee

#### Bible Baptist Church

PO Box 938 • 9th & Austin  
Sunday 10 am Sunday School,  
11 am and 5 pm Worship,  
Wed 5 pm Bible Study

#### Emmanuel Pentecostal

PO Box 794 • 1004 Hillcrest  
Pastor Brantly Robertson  
(972) 841-2009  
Sundays 10 am, Wednesdays 7 pm

#### First Methodist Church

PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne  
Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417  
Sun. 10 am Sunday School  
11 am Worship,

#### Iglesia Bautista Betel

101 Houston • Robert Lee  
Sun. 9:45 am • Sunday School  
11 am Service • Bible Study Wed. 6 pm

#### Southside Church of Christ

PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston  
Robert Lee (325) 453-2176  
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School  
11 am & 6 pm, Worship  
Wed. 6 pm, Worship

#### Northside Church of Christ

PO Box 508  
9th & Chadbourne • Robert Lee  
(325) 453-2685, (325) 763-2118  
or (325) 473-1053  
Services: Sun. 10 am

#### Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church

601 W. 10th, Robert Lee  
(325) 365-2687  
Rev. Timothy Hayter, Pastor  
Saturday Vigil Mass 6 pm

#### Robert Lee Baptist Church

PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th  
(325) 453-2724  
Chris Walls, Pastor  
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School  
11 am Worship

Wed. 6:30 pm, Prayer Meeting  
**Victory Assembly of God**  
(325) 453-2208, PO Box 638  
202 E. 6th Street, Robert Lee  
Rev. Rocky Youngblood, Pastor  
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School  
10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship  
Wed. 6 pm, Bible Study

## Edward Jones

Member SIPC

**It's never too early to start saving for tomorrow.**



**Larry M Gilbert, CFP®, AAMS™**

Financial Advisor

122 N 8th St  
Ballinger, TX 76821  
325-365-2505

MKT-5894N-A

> [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)