

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County



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

Vol. 128, No. 14

Friday, October 9, 2015

Holiday Closings noted

The Coke County Courthouse and The Robert Lee City Hall will be closed Monday, October 12, 2015, in observance of the Columbus Day holiday. The Bronte City Hall will be open on that day.

Conaway to host Town Hall October 14

US Representative Mike Conaway will hold a town hall meeting at the Williams Building in downtown Bronte Wednesday, October 14, from 1:30 to 2:30 pm.

Bronte sets activity for October 17

A new event will be held in Bronte this year - Bronteoberfest. The date is set for October 17 with activities scheduled downtown and at the park. For more information, call Jodie Arrott at (817) 999-9079.

Veteran Outreach set for October 20

There will be a Coke County Veterans Outreach at 6 pm (1800 hours) on Tuesday, October 20, 2015. The meeting, for ALL veterans, will be held at the Family Center of Victory Assembly located at 213 6th Street in Robert Lee.

Representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Housing and Urban Development, the San Angelo Chapter of the DAV and Texas Veterans Commission will be on hand. The goal of this gathering is to provide

information to veterans, answer questions or let veterans know where to get their answers.

Hunting and Fishing Guide slated for October 30

The 2015 Coke and surrounding counties' Hunting and Fishing Guide will be published in the October 30th edition of the Observer/Enterprise. The deadline for pictures, advertising and editorial copy is Monday, October 19th. If you have pictures of stories from last season's hunting and/or fishing successes or pictures of this year's bow season, send them in along with details, and we'll get them in this year's guide.

For more information, call 453-2433.

Early voting begins October 19 in Amendment Election

Early voting begins Monday, October 19, 2015, and will run through Friday, October 30, 2015, for the upcoming Texas Constitutional Amendment Election. The election will be held Tuesday, November 3, 2015.

The explanations of the proposed amendments and the exact wording to be on the ballot for each of the seven are listed below.

Proposition Number 1

SJR 1 - Current law provides an exemption of \$15,000 from the ad valorem taxation for pub-



Highway Safety! TxDOT crews were out in force Monday, October 5, 2015, adding safety features in the four miles of US Highway 277 just north of Bronte. They first brought in a radar trailer a couple of weeks ago and this week, they cut in rumble strips. The strips run just outside of the white lines and down the center of the highway.

lic school purposes of a residence homestead. The proposed amendment would increase this exemption to \$25,000, starting in the tax year beginning January 1, 2015. In order to reflect the increased exemption on the homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or a disabled person, the proposed amendment would provide a reduction to the current limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes. The proposed amendment would protect school districts from all or part of the revenue loss by authorizing an appropriation of funds according to formulas set by the legislature. In addition, the proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to prohibit a political subdivision from reducing or repealing a homestead exemption adopted by the political subdivision. Finally, the proposed amendment would prohibit the imposition of a tax on the conveyance of real property, but would not prohibit the imposition of a business tax measured by business activity, a tax on the production of minerals, a tax on the issuance of title insurance, or a change in the rate of a tax in existence on January 1, 2016.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation

for public school purposes from \$15,000 to \$25,000, providing for a reduction of the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for those purposes on the homestead of an elderly or disabled person to reflect the increased exemption amount, authorizing the legislature to prohibit a political subdivision that has adopted an optional residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation from reducing the amount of or repealing the exemption, and prohibiting the enactment of a law that imposes a transfer tax on a transaction that conveys fee simple title to real property."

Proposition Number 2

HJR 75 - In 2011, voters approved a constitutional amendment to allow a surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran an exemption from ad valorem taxation from all or part of the market value on the disabled veteran's residence homestead,

as long as the surviving spouse had not remarried. The amendment did not apply to surviving spouses of veterans who died before 2011. This amendment would extend the exemption in such cases. The proposed amendment would apply only to ad valorem taxes imposed for a tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2016.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran who died before the law authorizing a residence homestead exemption for such a veteran took effect."

Proposition Number 3

SJR 52 proposes a constitutional amendment to repeal the requirement for the

(Continued on page 3)

COKE COUNTY FOOTBALL!



**Robert Lee Steers
vs. Eden Bulldogs**
Friday, October 9, 2015
7:30 pm Eden

**Bronte Longhorns
vs. Menard Yellowjackets**



Friday, October 9, 2015
7:30 pm Bronte



**Blackwell Hornets
vs. Santa Anna Mountaineers**
Friday, October 9, 2015
7:30 pm Blackwell

**Regular Meeting of the
Commissioners Court**
9 am Tuesday
October 13, 2015
Commissioners Courtroom
Coke County Courthouse