

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

Single Copy 50¢



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

Vol. 126, No. 32

Friday, February 14, 2014

Early Voting begins Tuesday in March 2014 Primary Election

Early voting begins next Tuesday, February 18, 2014, for the March 4th Primary Election and will continue through February 28, 2014.

Early voting will be held at the courthouse Monday-Thursday from 8 am to 5 pm and Friday from 8 am to 1 pm.

Branch polling will be held at First National Bank in Bronte on February 18, 19, 25 and 26 from 9 am to 1 pm.

On election day, Precincts 1 and 3 will be voting at the courthouse. Precincts 2 and 4 will vote at the Bronte Senior Citizens Building. Voting hours are from 7 am to 7 pm.

Only two local offices will have contested races. Coke County Commissioners in both Precincts 2 and 4 will face challengers. Currently, these offices are held by Wendell Lee in Precinct 2 and Bobby Blaylock in Precinct 4. Facing Lee for Commissioner Precinct 2 is Paul Williams. Blaylock is being challenged by Joe Sefcik for Commissioner Precinct 4. Political profiles begin on page 3 of this issue of *The Observer/Enterprise*.

Incumbents without opponents filing to retain their positions include: Roy Blair, County Judge; Mary Grim,

County/District Clerk; Hal Spain, County Treasurer; Jackie Walker, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1; and Grady Coulter, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2. All of the above offices except for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2, are in the Republican Primary.

Johnson to be honored with reception

Richard Johnson, maintenance director at the Coke County Courthouse, is retiring after eight years of service to the County. There will be a retirement reception on Tuesday, February 18, from 2 pm to 4 pm, in the Commissioner's courtroom.

Richard has served Coke County and Robert Lee for a long time. He is currently a member of the Robert Lee City Council. He is director and long-time supporter of the Red Canyon Gun and Archery Range. He works with the Coke County 4-H Rifle Team, and has supported 4-H programs for many years.

As a member of the "Chain Gang" at Robert Lee High School football games, he actively supported the sports club and is still a long-time supporter of the sports scene. He is a history buff with emphasis on the Civil War and a student of all kinds of atlases.

The retirement reception is to thank a dedicated county



Was Snow, Now Ice! *Coke County received snow last Thursday morning. Totals ranged from just under 1/2" near Robert Lee to 1' at Blackwell. The above photo was taken on the west end of FM 2662 and the photo at right is Mays Road.*

Beginning early Tuesday morning of this week, ice began to form on our roadways. County schools were first delayed and then cancelled. Coke County Sheriff's Deputy Trey Davis came in on his day off to assist Sheriff Wayne McCutchen with the numerous accidents throughout Coke County.



employee and community supporter.

Letter to the Editor

[Editor's Note: The following letter was submitted to our office on Monday morning. With the many (50+) signatures affixed to the letter, we do not know who wrote it. To keep rumors at bay, I will state that I unequivocally did not write this letter.]

Dear Editor and Coke County Tax Payers,

Once again, we have lost two good deputies due to lack of decent pay. Our county is next to the bottom of the entire state of Texas pay scale for a sheriff's department. It's no surprise that no one wants to work here. We depend on our sheriff's department to protect our homes, property and lives. They are a buffer in family disputes, track down and arrest thieves and retrieve stolen property. Drugs have become a very large issue in our county as well as surrounding areas. Do we not care that this type of people may be corrupting our

children? Our officers are working continually to find and rid our county of this epidemic.

They attend many classes required by the state of Texas to even hold these positions. They do not work eight hours a day, 5 days a week, like the other county employees. They are on twenty-four hour call, seven days a week. How many of us have to get up at 2 am to go control a drunk or work a car wreck? They also assist the fire department and EMS services when there is a call.

When our Commissioners Court says, "We have no money", but do nothing about it, **THEY ARE NOT DOING THEIR JOB.** It was said if the deputies got a raise, everyone in the courthouse would need one. Maybe this should be explained to us all. All jobs are NOT equal and do not deserve the same pay or a raise just because someone else got one. Many factors should go into the pay rates, including danger of the job, years of service, education of the employee and more

importantly, performance. If our deputies work overtime because they are short handed, they are not paid for it. What good is comp time if you have no one to work for you?

Many have said that two deputies and a sheriff are enough to take care of the job. Let's see how that works out when we need a law officer and they are both tied up taking care of things on the other side of the county, or the sheriff is working alone on the deputy's day off and has more than he can handle. Put yourselves in that position folks, because it is already happening. True, we have two constables who can help them, if they are available and can be reached.

A citizen of Bronte had his pickup stolen while he sat drinking coffee. This occurred in broad daylight! Because we had law enforcement available, the pickup was recovered quickly and no one was harmed with the gun the owner had left in the vehicle.

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Lange honored by TGWA! *Chris Lange was honored on Thursday, January 30, 2014, in Lubbock, Texas, with the Gary D. Grant Award for Outstanding and Dedicated Service to the Groundwater Industry of Texas and the Texas Groundwater Association. This award is one of only a handful presented each year at the TGWA Annual Convention.*

Chris is a third generation water-well driller and pump installer with Lange Drilling Company, which has served this area since 1969. He resides at Oak Creek Lake with his wife, Tiffany and daughters, Cambrey and Caitlin. Chris is the grandson-in-law of Martin and Pat Lee and Grady and Dian Coulter.

Since its inception in 1947, the Texas Ground Water Association has worked to assist, promote, encourage, and support the interests and welfare of the water well industry, particularly within Texas.