

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County



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Friday, February 7, 2014

Daddy-Daughter Date Night set for Saturday

The 5th annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night, "Under the Sea", will be held Saturday, February 8, 2014, from 5 to 8 pm at the Robert Lee Rec Hall.

This event offers dads, stepdads, granddads, big brothers, uncles, cousins, or that special friend the opportunity to let their little girl know how special they are.

This evening is for girls in Pre-K through 6th grade. There will be light appetizers, music and a complimentary 5x7 photo of the couple. Austin Crawley Photography will be on site again this year to take pictures. A group photo and other photo packages will be available for purchase. The girls may bring their own camera to capture special moments of the evening. B's Blossoms 'n' Bloom will be offering a special on corsages and boutonniere in conjunction with the dance. Details will be sent home on the photo packages and flower special being offered.

Advance ticket sales ended February 6. Tickets purchased at the door will cost more.

For more information, call or text Katie Drennan (473-0112) or Erin Oleksiuk (656-9884).

UIL realignments issued

Texas University Interscholastic League has issued the realignments for the 2014-2015 and the 2015-2016 school years.

Blackwell, Bronte, and Robert Lee will all be in the same basketball district - Division 1A, Region 2, District 14. They will be joined by Garden City, Paint Rock, Sterling City, Veribest and Water Valley.

For football, all three schools will be competing in separate divisions, as well as districts.

Blackwell will compete in 1A, Division 2 6-Man, Region 2, District 7 with Loraine, Trent and Moran.

Bronte will compete in 2A, Division 2, Region 2, District 6 with Roscoe, Winters, Menard, Miles and Roby. Last year's District Champion TLCA has been moved up to 3A.

Robert Lee will compete in 1A, Division 1 6-Man, Region 2, District 6 with Sterling City, Veribest and Water Valley. With Robert Lee's move to Division 1, they will now face the perennial powerhouse Water

Valley Wildcats in district competition.

Officials have confirmed that the Coke County Championship between the football teams from Robert Lee ISD and Bronte ISD is back on - at least for the next two years. Next fall, the Bronte Longhorns will travel to Robert Lee to take on the Steers in a 6 man competition for the first game of the season. The following year, the Robert Lee Steers will travel to Bronte to face the Longhorns in an 11 man game to begin the season.

Commissioners Court to meet Monday

A regular meeting of the Coke County Commissioners Court is set for Monday, February 10, 2014, at 9 am. The meeting will be held in the Commissioners Courtroom on the main floor of the Courthouse.

Regular meetings of the Coke County Commissioners Court are held the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 9 am.

3rd Annual Lion's Club Chili Supper set for February 15

Robert Lee Lion's Club is sponsoring a chili and all the trimmin's supper fundraiser in the Robert Lee Rec Hall on February 15 from 5 pm-8 pm.

In addition to the best chili you ever wrapped a lip around; there will be a cake auction after the supper.

Coke County among those designated as disaster area

USDA Texas Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, Judith A. Canales, announced that Coke County was one of the 108 counties in Texas to be declared a disaster on January 15, 2014, due to drought using the streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process.

Other counties in the area to receive this designation include Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Sterling and Tom Green. Under this designation, producers in any of the primary or contiguous disaster counties are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.

The streamlined disaster designation process issues a drought disaster declaration when a county has experienced a drought intensity value of at least a D2 (severe drought) level for eight consecutive weeks based on the U.S. Drought Monitor during the crop year.



Robert Lee Youth! Robert Lee young people from local churches gathered this past weekend to study, pray and support the community with clean-up efforts downtown and at the cemetery. Photo Courtesy of Leta Caston.

Grassroots action needed on Clean Water Act

A proposed regulation scheduled soon for release by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would greatly increase the scope of the Clean Water Act, with serious implications for local farmers and ranchers, according to John Ross Copeland, Coke-Sterling County Farm Bureau president.

The Clean Water Act began in 1972 to reduce raw sewage discharge into rivers and streams, which was standard practice across the country. In the years since, EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have attempted, with some success, to expand the program by expanding the definition of "navigable waters" or "waters of the United States" beyond rivers and streams to include isolated ponds and wetlands and temporary water features caused by runoff and seasonal flooding.

"The new rule, in its current form, would have no exemption for standard farm practices, and there is no exemption for ditches," John Ross Copeland said. "In fact, ditches are explicitly included in the proposal."

The Coke-Sterling County farm leader said the rule is expected to be released and opened for comment sometime in the next 60 days.

"This issue should be hugely important to local farmers and ranchers. It is vital they comment on this proposed regulation that could seriously affect the way they run their farms and ranches," John Ross Copeland said. "It is also important that they talk to members of Congress, even after the comment period is over."

Midessa Boat, RV, Sport and Gun Show slated for next weekend

The 32nd annual Midessa Boat, RV, Sport and Gun Show will be held at the Ector County Coliseum Complex in Odessa, Texas, February 6-9, 2014. Those attending can see the new 2014 model RV's, Boats, Trucks, SUV's, and receive the best buys of the season. Check the many booth spaces for free prizes including a \$500 vacation cash giveaway, resort stays and more. Visit the gun show, and a variety of booths including resort areas, RV parks, jewelry, motorcycles, ATV's and used boats and rv's. Plan your vacation or hunting trip in Canada, Colorado, Texas or a safari in Africa.

See the Bass Tub, a 4000 gallon 40 foot long mobile aquarium that travels the country performing at over 25 sports, fishing, boating, hunting and outdoor expos. The fishing seminars and demonstrations with live fish are performed by a

professional fisherman, Keith Johnson, perched on top of a mounted boat on the end of the Bass Tub. Demonstrations are made with a variety of proven fish catching, casting and retrieval techniques. You are able to see the fish swimming and chasing the lures. Each professional fishing demonstration will include a variety of baits and presentations and be packed full of professional angler tips and tactics.

Attendees can also register in Building E for a \$500 Vacation Cash giveaway.

The show promises something for the entire family to enjoy. A free tram will be provided to transport people from building to building. All exhibits are located indoors. For more information, visit www.midessaboatshow.net.

**Regular Meeting
Commissioners
Court
Monday,
February 10
9 am
Commissioners
Courtroom
Coke County
Courthouse**