

# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

*Serving Coke County*



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## WATER

### *It's What's Important!*

The people of Coke County have a large problem which we share with others in Texas, across the United States and around the world. This problem is water, or more specifically, the limited and diminishing amount of water a larger population must have to survive and flourish.

Currently, both Bronte and Robert Lee depend upon the City of Bronte for water. The City of Bronte obtains water from Oak Creek Lake (through allotments given to both Bronte and Robert Lee) and a series of wells in that area. Both communities have close to 600 meters each with a combined usage of approximately 180 million gallons per year. Contained within Robert Lee's figures is the rural water system with just under 200 meters west of Robert Lee.

Although there is now some water in Lake Spence, Robert Lee has no access to Spence's water. Since the Robert Lee water plant was condemned by the state, no one can use the water in Mountain Creek Lake. This body of water has no way of being transported to a treatment plant without construction of a new pipeline because treated water and untreated water cannot run through the same pipeline.

Both communities have aging infrastructure and the task of balancing massive improvement costs against a decreasing tax valuation. Anything residents can do to help ease the strain on these systems will benefit the communities.

Rural homeowners in several parts of the county have faced the water problem for years. Many areas of Coke County have very little, if any, underground water. These people were forced to haul water or choose another place in which to live.

For those "fortunate" enough to have a weak well, a system of tanks, timers, and multiple pumps might produce a "livable" situation if residents didn't mind staggering showers and laundry over a period of days. These "fortunate" people knew a garden or lawn was out of the question entirely.

Our ancestors realized the need for cisterns to catch rainwater, but until recently, many modern homeowners overlooked this as water supply source. A handful of Coke County residents have installed these systems to provide for residential and agriculture use in recent years.

This is a simple concept. Rain falls on a roof, runs through a gutter system to a holding tank(s), then pumped through a treatment device and into the home for consumption. In reality, each area mentioned above has many factors affecting the overall system. The components are discussed below.

#### **Rain**

The Texas Water Development Board describes rainwater as valuable for its purity and softness. They list the following benefits and advantages.

- \* The water is free; the only cost is for collection and use.

- \* The end use of harvested water is located close to the source, eliminating the need for complex and costly distribution systems.

- \* Rainwater provides a water source when groundwater is unacceptable or unavailable, or it can augment limited groundwater supplies.

- \* The zero hardness of rainwater helps prevent scale on appliances, extending their use; rainwater eliminates the need for a water softener and the salts added during the softening process.

- \* Rainwater is sodium-free, important for persons on low-sodium diets.

- \* Rainwater is superior for landscape irrigation.

According to the 2015 rainfall report provided by the Coke County Underground Water Conservation District, Coke County has received an average of 23.63" of rain annually over the last 13 years. The low over these years was in 2011 with 8.94" reported to 2004 and 2007 with 33+" each. Last year, 32.16" was reported.

#### **Roof (Catchment Surface)**

Every home has a roof.

However, composite or asphalt shingles, wood shingles, tar and

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**Catch System Example!** Above is an example of a rainwater catch system using a metal roof, seamless gutters, first flush diverters and a metal tank with a plastic liner.

#### **Spring Festival set for Saturday**

Saturday, the Z. I. Hale Museum Complex will celebrate Spring Festival. Festival hours are 10 am to 5 pm in the 200 & 300 block of West Dale, Winters, Texas. The day will start at 10 am with a parade. On Truett Street, the parade will pass Winters Assisted Living then go down Rodgers Street and pass by Senior Citizens Retirement. From there, it will go to Main Street and turn south to Broadway Street, then over to Melwood Street. The parade will follow Melwood Street to the museum complex.

The Rock Hotel will feature Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker with a display of photographs and written descriptions for "A Man of Two Roads". At 2 pm, Francis Bredemeyer will present a book review of several books on Quanah Parker. Other activities at the hotel will be an Art Show & Sale, Silent Auction and Pies & Drinks out the back door.

A special feature of this year's festival will be the St. Vincent Pallotti Catholic's "Ballet Folklorico". They will present performances at 11 am and 1 pm.

Other activities on the grounds will be the String Olympics and Antique Tractor Show. Bring your tractor and compete in the String Olympics,

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#### **Coach's Closet set for April 9**

The 3rd annual Coach's Closet in Robert Lee will be held Saturday, April 9, from 10 am to 12 noon in the Robert Lee Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. "Coach's Closet" is a clothing event where anyone can come and get clothes at no charge.

Donations of men, women, children and infant's clothing are needed. Only clothing donations will be accepted. Please bring all donated clothes to Robert Lee Baptist Church by Thursday, April 7.

#### **Red Hats to meet April 7**

The Red Hat Society will meet Thursday, April 7, 2016, at 11 am at Pena's Red Barn in Bronte.

Join them for lunch and lots of good fellowship! They hope to see you at Red Barn.

#### **Rabies Clinic set for Robert Lee**

Coke County 4-H will sponsor a Rabies Clinic Tuesday, April 12, 2016, from 3:30 pm to 6 pm at the South end of the Show Barn in the Robert Lee Park.

Dr. Travis Arledge of Pioneer Vet Clinic in Winters will be the Veterinarian in charge. All pets four months of age and older

should be immunized and rabies vaccinations should be given annually.

Rabies vaccinations and worming will be offered. Other immunizations for dogs will include Distemper/Parvo/Corona, Rattlesnake, Parvo (under 12 weeks of age), and Kennel Cough. Distemper/Leukemia shots will be available for cats. Horses will be able to obtain their rabies, West Nile/Vewt, flu/rhino, and rattlesnake vaccinations. Paste worming with Zimectrin Gold will also be offered for horses.

Proceeds go to benefit the Coke County 4-H Club. For more information, call (325) 453-2461.

#### **Bronte Citywide Garage Sale set for May 7**

It's time again for the Annual Bronte Citywide Garage Sale. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 7, at 8 am.

If you would like to participate, please call City Hall at (325) 473-3501 by Thursday, May 5. Your garage sale location will be listed on a map to be distributed at the First National Bank parking lot. This is a great opportunity to recycle, reuse and reduce unwanted items in your closet.

**BURN BAN IN EFFECT.**