



New City Officials! Elected Robert Lee City Council Members are shown with outgoing Mayor John Jacobs. They include Roger Alexander (right photo, from left), Toni Rainwater, and Incumbent Janie Munoz. John Jacobs (above photo) hands over the keys to City Hall to Mayor Elect, Leroy Casey.

... Arena

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transaction first appeared in The Observer/Enterprise earlier this year.

A contract was signed between the President and Vice President of the roping club and representatives of the school. The Coke County Roping Club is the legal owner of this property and the deed to the property is in their name. This organization has always paid the annual property taxes for this property. For the last many years, the roping club has maintained the same people in their membership.

In the past, a large junior rodeo was held each summer, in addition to playdays throughout the summer. These events were held by the Coke County Rodeo Association. However, the last event sponsored by this association was in the early 1990's.

Prior to 1993, both the Coke County Roping Club and the Coke County Rodeo Association held events in the arena. In the intervening years, the Coke County Roping Club continued hosting annual Ranch Rodeos each summer, along with roping practices twice a week, 4-6 buckle ropings each year, and playdays during the summer. The last Ranch Rodeo was held in 2012. With private arenas popping up all over the county, membership in the roping club dwindled to six by 2010.

Hoping for a renewal of interest by community members, representatives of the Coke County Roping Club went before the Bronte Economic Development Council in September of 2010 requesting financial assistance to renovate and improve the facility. Their proposal included past and future calendars of events and projects to be completed. Also in the proposal were figures from the state comptroller's office detailing the economic impact to Bronte from the events held at the arena. The figure given for the annual direct, indirect and induced impact to Bronte from events held at the arena was \$456,487.29.

The EDC voted to award the grant. However, the

requirements placed by the EDC officer in charge were impossible to satisfy. It was required that the roping club document every penny spent at every business in Bronte by not only the competitors at any events, but also by the spectators. The roping club voted to not move forward with this EDC grant process due to this requirement.

The final ranch rodeo at this facility was in 2012. A production of this size and scope was too large a burden to continue to place on six members. Although notices were published in the local newspaper asking for new members and announcing workdays, only the few remaining members came. During the performance, members called on friends, family and firemen to run off the event.

In the last couple of years, although meetings continued to be held, no one has really used the arena. A couple of locals have kept livestock there to try to keep the grass and weeds down, but other than that, no events have been held. With this in mind and trying to keep with what the original trustees of the roping club had purposed, the club voted to give the arena to the school. So many of today's children do not have the opportunity to be involved with



the livestock portions of FFA and 4-H because they do not have an easily accessible area in which to keep their stock. The arena is close to the school, while the current ag farm is out Highway 158 by the sewer ponds.

Members of the roping club never dreamed that after the many years of non-interest, that there would be ANY objections to this use of the arena. However, with that said, the contract is signed. These most recent interested parties can be very beneficial in assisting the school in bringing the arena back to life for our community's young people.

Annual Celebration issue set for July 3rd

Last year's 125th Coke County Anniversary issue was a huge success. Although it included many stories of early Coke County, there will never be room enough in a single issue to tell all of the interesting history surrounding Coke County and the people who have lived here.

With this said, the July 3, 2015, issue and the issue nearest to July 4th of the years following will be devoted to celebrating

the history of Coke County. We are asking for your stories, old pictures and anything you believe pertains to our history here in Coke County. Please contact us at (325) 453-2433 (email o-e@wcc.net).

Commissioners Court minutes posted

The Coke County Commissioners Court met in regular session May 12, 2015, at the courthouse in Robert Lee. Members of the court present included County Judge, Roy Blair, Commissioner, Pct. #1 Gene Montgomery, Commissioner Pct. #2 Paul Williams, Commissioner, Pct. #3 Gaylon Pitcock, Commissioner, Pct. #4 Joe Sefcik. Clerk Mary Grim was also in attendance.

The meeting opened with prayer given by Judge Blair and pledge to the flag was recited.

Judge Blair announced the presence of a quorum.

Comm. Sefcik made a motion to approve the minutes for April 28. The motion was seconded by Comm. Williams. Motion carried.

Treasurer Hal Spain presented his report. Comm. Montgomery made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Comm. Sefcik. Motion carried.

Judge Blair presented County Agent Morgan Runyan's extension report for April.

Sheriff Wayne McCutchen presented his April report.

Tax Collector's report for April was presented by Tax A/C Josie Dean.

County/District Clerk Mary Grim presented her report for April. She also presented the

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Joe & Glenda Draper



have been married
50 years. Their
children are
celebrating from 2
pm to 3 pm
Saturday, June 6,
2015, at the
Bronte Health &
Rehab Center.

Come and join them for cake and fellowship.
No gifts please.

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