

# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

*Serving Coke County*



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## Commissioners counter second offer for facility

During a regular session of the Coke County Commissioners Court Tuesday morning, June 28, 2016, Commissioners once again rejected an offer from 4C Cowboy Church to purchase the vacant detention facility just south of Bronte.

The facility ceased operations as a prison in the fall of 2007 and has been vacant since that time. In December of 2012, Geo Group gave the facility back to Coke County. At the time it appeared to be a gift, but later proved to be an annual loss of approximately \$65,000 in tax revenue based on its value as an operating prison of \$3.2 million.

An offer of \$200,000 was made by Garrison General Contractors, the company to which the county leased the facility in the spring of 2013. At that time, Judge Blair stated they couldn't sell the property below its appraised value without getting a new appraisal and listing it with an MLS broker. The lease with Garrisons was short-lived and the county received an appraisal on the facility of just over \$685,000. In the years since, the property has remained vacant.

The Commissioners first listed the property with a local MLS broker, Jerrod Pitcock of Pitcock Properties, and later listed it with Tom Niblo of Senter Realtors in Abilene.

The first offer from the church in Bronte, presented at the June 14,

2016, Commissioners Court meeting was for \$100,000 and was rejected with no counter. The newest offer was for \$210,000. The Commissioners countered this offer with a price of \$350,000. They also stated the property would be sold "as is" and included several other changes to the original offer. All commissioners expressed concern that if sold to the church, the property would not be on the tax roll.

4C Pastor James Brunson provided the members of the court with a statement (included in the box below) detailing the intentions of the church. He told the commissioners he would meet with his congregation to discuss their counter offer and requested to be added to the agenda at the regular meeting set for July 12, 2016.

Pastor Brunson also dispelled rumors which arose after the first meeting. He made clear that there was absolutely no possibility of the facility being used to house foreign refugees if 4C Cowboy Church purchased the property. He added later that there is possibly a much better chance of that happening with it remaining a government owned property. He also wanted to make sure all Commissioners realized that the county was not being asked to finance this venture and, if a deal is reached, the county would receive the total amount

## Have a Safe and Happy INDEPENDENCE DAY!



*Please Pray for our  
Communities, Our  
County, Our State  
and Our Country.*

decided upon at closing and funding of the transaction.

Citizens in favor of 4C Cowboy Church may sign letters of support at numerous businesses in both Bronte and Robert Lee. The businesses in Bronte include Main Street Market, Bronte Grocery, Shear Heaven, Addona's, and Shirley's Place. Businesses in Robert Lee are Surety Title (formerly Coke County Abstract), The Observer/Enterprise and Floyd C. Pettit Insurance.

### Scholarship BBQ Fundraiser set

The CJ Macon Memorial Scholarship is hosting a carry out BBQ dinner Saturday, July 2, 2016, from 12 noon to 7 pm at the Longbranch BBQ in Bronte. The \$10 per plate dinner will include brisket, potato salad, red beans, cobbler and "award winning" banana pudding.

### 4-H Pancake Breakfast set for Saturday

Coke County 4-H is starting the 4th of July celebration in the Robert Lee Park on Saturday with a Pancake Breakfast.

The breakfast, set for Saturday, July 2, from 7 am to 10 am at the Rec Hall, is an All-You-Can-Eat offering pancakes, sausage, coffee and orange juice.

Come early and support Coke County 4-H.

### Ivey Motors to host Annual Golf Tourney

Ivey Motors will hold their annual 4th of July Golf Tournament Saturday, July 2, 2016, at Mountain Creek Golf Course in Robert Lee. The 18 Hole tourney will have tee off times of 8 am and 2 pm.

The tournament is free, not including green fees, and everyone is welcome to participate.

If a golfer is fortunate enough to

hit a hole in one on the #8 hole, they will win a brand new 2016 Ford F-150 Super Crew 4x4 valued at \$57,580.

If a cart will be needed, it must be reserved by 2 pm Friday, June 24. Teams must be a threesome and everyone must register and pick up rules before tee off.

For more information, see their ad on page 8 of this issue.

### Annual 4th of July BlowOut set for July 2 in Robert Lee

Robert Lee Street Affair will host their 2nd annual 4th of July blowout Saturday, July 2. Everyone who wishes to participate in the parade needs to meet by 9:30 am at Wilson Bryan Memorial Mini Park in downtown Robert Lee. Kids with bikes are welcome to bring them and to decorate them in red, white and blue or with any 4th of July theme. The parade will begin at 10 am and head north on Austin Street to the county park where the Blowout will officially kick off.

The events at the park will be open to the public immediately following the parade. There will be games for the kids, including bounce houses, water slides, water gun maze, and a ring toss. Craft booths will be available.

At 12 noon, there will be square dancers performing at the pavillion.

The lawn mower races were a fan favorite last year and again will be held. These races are scheduled to begin at 1 pm. For more information on the lawn mower races, please contact Jason Moran at 325-234-9926 or Gina Moran at 325-234-9972.

There will also be a horseless goat roping competition, compliments of the 4C Cowboy Church in Bronte.

Take your chances with the chicken poop bingo. Try your hand at washer pitchin', beginning at 2 pm. For more information on the

washer pitchin' contest, contact Skyler Rainwater at (325) 763-7216.

Turn-in time for the Salsa and Margarita Taste-Off is 2 pm. Whip up your best batch of each.

Food will be provided by Another Place with proceeds going to the Robert Lee Street Affair.

The DJ will begin at 4 pm and continue until midnight. Come dance under the stars to the music of Tell Runyan of Las Cruces, New Mexico, from 6 pm to 9 pm.

The fireworks show this year is being sponsored by Robert and Tina Prentice in honor of their son, Brad Prentice. It will begin at night fall.

### Bronte Health and Rehab Center to hold July 4th Celebration.

By Doris Sims

Well, it's almost that time of year again, for the annual 4th of July Celebration to be held on Monday, July 4, 2016, at 6 pm. that takes place at the Bronte Health and Rehab Center. The 4th of July Celebration includes a free meal of hot dogs and watermelon, a silent auction, a live auction (our only fundraiser), and a wonderful fireworks display.

I would like to take this opportunity to let the community know who the Auxiliary is and their purpose. The purpose of BHRC Auxiliary, is to render volunteer services to the East Coke County Hospital District, dba, Bronte Health and Rehab Center and residents, by providing funds, services and material goods (such as equipment) to aide in its functions, services and programs of the facility.

The BHRC Auxiliary is a non-profit organization. No part of its net earnings shall be insure to the benefit of any officer, director, member, or individual who has a personal and private interest in the activities of the BHRC Auxiliary nor

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## 4C COWBOY CHURCH

PO Drawer R

Bronte, Texas 76933

Pastor James Brunson, (469) 834-3932

As members of the body of Christ, we each have been commissioned to serve Him by serving others. The members of Christ's body who belong to 4C Cowboy Church believe the former detention facility and the land upon which it sits will enable us to fulfill God's purpose for this growing congregation.

The facility will provide a permanent place in which to worship for the 4C family, the center's staff and those who will be served by them on this property.

The youth of Coke County will benefit greatly with this venture. The future will see upon this property a childcare facility offering both daycare and after school care. There will be areas for students who currently have no place to keep show livestock to house their animals. Youth who need a place to keep a horse will be welcome to the facilities. There will be an arena in which to hold events and clinics. Also included will be a full service trade shop in which to teach young people needed skills.

In addition to the above services provided, the property will be used for youth camps, equine therapy for veterans and special needs individuals, and as an event center hosting clinics, seminars, and equine events of all kinds. Walk to Emmaus has expressed interest in using the facility.

We hope the members of this Commissioners Court will allow us to serve Coke County by utilizing this property.