

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

Single Copy 50¢



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

Vol. 127, No. 03

Friday, July 25, 2014

Citizens instructed to call Sheriff's office, not 911

Beginning immediately, citizens of Coke County are being told to call the Coke County Sheriff's Office at (325) 453-2717 instead of dialing 911 in the event of an emergency. This Sheriff's office number is answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by certified dispatchers for the Sheriff's Office. Calls made to 911 from within Coke County will be answered by Concho County for the time being. However, Concho County dispatchers will have to take the 911 call and then call the Coke County Sheriff's Office number so that local services can be paged out.

This is the latest change in a process which began after a new Texas law went into effect on January 1, 2014. This law requires anyone answering an emergency number to be trained and certified. With Coke County's 911 being answered at Robert Lee Care Center, Coke County could not comply with this unfunded mandate.

Coke County Judge Roy Blair, also Coke County's Emergency Management Coordinator, began working with Coke County Sheriff Wayne McCutchen to find a way to comply with this new law. Runnels County was first approached to answer Coke County's 911 calls, but after several weeks of negotiation, plans were changed to Tom Green County.

A deal was struck with Tom Green County to answer Coke County's 911 calls late this spring. However, the process to make this change is multifaceted and cannot be done quickly. In addition to equipment changes, approval must be granted by the Texas 911 Commission which meets quarterly. Currently, only part of the equipment has been

received and the 911 Commission is scheduled to look at this request at their October meeting. According to Neil Brown, Concho Valley Council of Government 911 GIS Manager, the switch to Tom Green County can be activated as soon as the equipment is in place on a "temporary" basis pending approval by the Commission.

The urgency to remove the current 911 system from the Robert Lee Care Center was the sole item on the agenda of a Special Commissioners Court meeting Tuesday morning, July 22, 2014. West Coke County Hospital District Board members were unaware of the extensive time needed to find, equip and gain approval for another source to answer the 911 calls. The current 911 system is located in a part of the care center scheduled for complete renovation. The first step in this renovation is asbestos removal which could begin as early as Monday, July 28, 2014. The 911 equipment must be dismantled and removed by contractors supplied by Concho Valley Council of Governments before the renovation process begins.

Concho County has been and continues to be Coke County's "emergency switch" for the 911 calls. The last time this was activated was during the fires when the Robert Lee Care Center was ordered to evacuate. Concho County has graciously agreed to provide this service to Coke County as an emergency solution until the equipment needed to make the permanent transfer to Tom Green County is in place.

Until Tom Green County takes over, Coke County Sheriff Wayne McCutchen urges county residents to use (325) 453-2717



Special Meeting! Robert Lee Care Center Administrator Monica Toney (above photo, left) and West Coke County Hospital District Board President Mary Bessent were on hand to address the Commissioners and Judge Blair at the Special Meeting of the Coke County Commissioners Court Tuesday morning. Also addressing the Court were Jeff Lopez (right photo, left) and Neil Brown, Concho Valley Council of Governments 911 GIS Managers.

for all emergencies. This number, answered by Sheriff's office personnel, is operational at all times.

Bronte Golf Tourney set

The Bronte Longhorn Golf Club is sponsoring a 3 person 27 hole golf tournament on Saturday, July 26. Tee time is 9 am.

When signing up you must let them know if a cart is needed and leave a call back number. For more information, contact Bronte Longhorn Golf Club at 325-473-2156, 325-473-3231 or 325-262-6617. After 5 pm call 432-661-3431 or 325-864-3312 or 325-236-0089.

Bells to signal call to prayer

Listen for the church bells or set your alarm and join with over 800,000 believers and say the Lord's Prayer at noon everyday. Teach it to your children so they will have a prayer to say during the moment of silence at school. Praise be to God. Matthew 6:9-13



Bronte Physicals set for August 2

Bronte High School Physicals will be Saturday, August 2, 2014, in San Angelo at Shannon Sports Medicine. All student athletes need to meet in front of the High School at 7 am. The bus will be leaving at 7:15 am. The physical will be of no cost to the student athlete if taken at this time.

Red Hat Society meeting slated

The Red Hat Society will be meeting Thursday, August 7, at the Windmill City Grill in Bronte. The time will be 11 am.

You are welcome to join this group where there is fun after fifty (and before) for women of all walks of life. There are no

dues, no rules, no business, no nothing really but lots of good fun and fellowship. Come join us.

Community Band Practice set for July 24

Robert Lee Community band practice will be held Thursday, July 24 at 6 pm in the RLHS Band Hall. Plans are in the works for practices to be held every Tuesday in August. All are welcome and encouraged to join.

Bronte Band to begin practice August 4

The Bronte High School Band will begin rehearsals on August 4 from 5-9 pm. Practice will be Monday-Friday with Wednesday off for 2 weeks in August.

**Regular Meeting
Commissioners Court
Monday, July 28
9 am
Commissioners Courtroom
Coke County Courthouse**