

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County



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Observer/Enterprise begins new forum for readers' issues

By Melinda McCutchen
Publisher

For the better part of twenty-three years, I've served this newspaper in some capacity. Often, I've wanted to comment on things happening in our county or even on a larger scale. With a few exceptions, I've been able to resist this temptation. (It also might be due to the former publisher's red pen.) However, I'm not going to resist it any longer. I'm going to dive right in and invite all of the *Observer/Enterprise* readers to join me!

Beginning with this issue, we will revive the old Coke County Comment. It will have one notable difference - it will not just be a comment from the publisher. All readers of the *Observer/Enterprise* are invited to comment.

I will lay some ground rules.

- There will be no anonymous comments. A name, mailing address, and phone number (or email address) must accompany all submissions. Only the name will be printed. The other information is to enable the staff here to contact the person for clarification if needed.
- No rumors or any com-

ments will be included that could be considered libelous or slanderous.

- No negative comments naming local officials or local (city, county, school boards, etc.) candidates by name.

- The publisher will have discretion on when there is room to print comment.

- No profanity will be allowed unless in a quote and then it will be "cleaned up".

- The publisher may edit any comment to remove any breaches of the above rules.

You may mail your comment to the *Observer/Enterprise* at PO Box 1329, Robert Lee, Texas 76945, fax it to (325) 453-4643, or email it to o-e@wcc.net.

I'm going to start the ball rolling with this week's Comment. I'll also suggest a few topics for you to comment on. What do you think about:

- supporting our county businesses by shopping locally?

- the role social media is taking in our culture?

- the good old days?

- what is in the United States Constitution and its role in today's governing?

If you care to comment on one of these topics or one I've not mentioned, please send it in!

COKE COUNTY COMMENT

If you watch any national news, you'll see how violence in our country has escalated at an alarming rate over the last ten to twenty years. Even if you watch the news for San Angelo or Abilene, the violence has increased. But for those of us living in small town Texas, our lives aren't normally affected.

Last week was a not a normal week. On Wednesday evening, August 1, 2012, Deputy Josh Mitchell was shot and killed in Big Lake in what sounds to me as almost an ambush situation. He went to a home in town to talk to a man - not to arrest anyone - and was shot as he approached the house. He was wearing a protective vest. He died at the hospital a short time later.

The shooter, or I guess I have to say the alleged shooter, then barricaded himself in the home

after firing at two responding deputies. By the next morning following the all-night standoff, it looked like something deserving of the national news as a special DPS team entered the home and the man was taken into custody.

Sometime during the night, he had tried to commit suicide and was airlifted to the hospital in San Angelo. As we learned the following Tuesday afternoon, he succeeded and was pronounced dead.

This kind of thing is not supposed to happen in rural west Texas. We see violence on the national news, not in our backyards! I know that this tragedy has added another layer of concern to all those who serve in law enforcement in our area and I realize this situation hits closer to home for me as the

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Honoring a Fallen Hero



Reagan County Deputy Josh Mitchell was killed in the line of duty Wednesday evening, August 1, 2012. His services were held in Big Lake Wednesday, August 8, 2012.



CCRC Playday set for August 12 in Bronte

The Coke County Roping Club's next playday is set for Sunday, August 12, at 5 pm and will be held at the arena in Bronte. Playdays are held the second Sunday of each month through September 9.

Events include barrel racing, pole bending, straight-away barrel racing, flag racing, and more.

Children who don't ride are welcome to participate in the boot scramble and the stick horse race.

Age divisions include lead line, 5 & under, 8 & under, 9-12, 13-15, 16-19, and open.

For more information, call Jennifer at (325) 234-6250 or Morgan at (325) 277-9210.

RLISD to hold pre-registration

The Robert Lee Independent School District will hold Pre K-Kindergarten pre-registration on Monday, August 20, from 5 pm to 6:30 pm in the Elementary School Office. Prospective Pre-K students must be 4 years old by September 1, 2012, to be eligible for the 2012-2013 school year.

All new students of the Robert Lee ISD, Pre-Kindergarten-6th grade are encouraged to attend.

Required documentation for enrollment will include Birth Certificate, Social Security Card and current Immunization Records. For additional information, please feel free to call the elementary school office at 453-4555.

4-H to hold party

Coke County 4-H will host a Swim and Enrollment Party on Thursday, August 16, from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Robert Lee Swimming Pool. Dinner will be provided. Students are encouraged to bring their parents.

Please RSVP by calling the extension office 325-453-2461 or email coke-tx@tam.u.edu.

Bronte Elementary Meet the Teacher set

Bronte Elementary School is inviting all parents and students to come meet their teachers on Wednesday, August 22, from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Everyone will first

meet in the auditorium for a brief update about the upcoming school year and then visit the teachers and classrooms.

All students are welcome to bring their backpacks and school supplies at this time.

Sheriff McCutchen urges vigilance following recent thefts

Coke County Sheriff Wayne McCutchen is urging residents in Bronte to be especially alert in the wake of a rash of vehicle burglaries.

In the past couple of weeks, items left in unlocked vehicles have been stolen in the Bronte area.

"Please call the Coke County Sheriff's Office at (325) 453-2717 anytime you see any suspicious activities. Our investigation into these burglaries is ongoing, but we do have some promising leads at this time," stated Sheriff McCutchen.

School Supplies!

School Supply Lists for Blackwell, Bronte & Robert Lee Elementary Schools begin on page 4!

School Starts

Blackwell, Bronte & Robert Lee
August 27