

**Coke County Tea Party holds second meeting on August 7**

The newly organized Coke County Tea Party met Tuesday, August 7, at Wildcat Marina. Attendees included people from throughout the county, including several from Bronte, Blackwell, and Robert Lee.

Participants have discussed what issues this group should consider and also if that issue was an immediate concern or was a more long-term goal.

Immediate concerns included:

- Changing leadership at the highest level by electing strict conservatives to national, state, county and city offices;
- Creating a fact checker position within the group;
- Making impact locally and nationally.

Long-term concerns included:

- Repealing Obamacare;
- Eliminating or limiting federal "alphabet" agencies;
- Reducing federal spending;
- Reducing the size of government;
- Reducing government regulations;
- Eliminating government interference in religion;
- Preserving the right to bear arms given by the 2nd Amendment;
- Equalizing taxes for residents in Coke County;
- Eliminating or replacing federal income tax;
- Eliminating property taxes;
- Retaining Homestead Exemption;
- Tax Reform at all levels;
- Electing people to office at all levels who will abide by the Constitution;
- Preserving the rights of the States given in the 10th Amendment;
- Securing and defending our borders;
- Leaving United Nations or limiting its power over United States citizens.

Others items discussed included

- Economic growth within the county;
- CRMWD land;
- Right to protect person and property;
- Local control of our schools;
- Water in Texas;
- Supporting a presidential candidate who will support

our ideals;

- Stopping Agenda 21 type treaties which bypass congressional approval;
- Preserving Medicare and Social Security;
- Voter registration drive in Coke County.

The Coke County Tea Party's next meeting date and time will be announced shortly.

**Coke County Comment**

Our community is so blessed to have people who have taken on the job of making our town a thriving, upbeat place to live.

We have struggled with drought, fires, and lack of water. I will admit to a feeling of despair at times. Then along comes a new group in our community, Robert Lee Vision With A Purpose. Each week I look forward to reading about their projects. What a great farsighted group!

I applaud people who have moved to Robert Lee from other communities and have seen potential for our town. They have brought ideas and have been willing to share them. A big thanks to the long time residents who have stepped up to bring their ideas and hopes to the group. Not only have these people come together to plan, they have also braved the heat to physically carry out their plans.

Indeed, through the workings of all the groups in Robert Lee who love this community, I see that "The best is yet to come."

It would be great to have other groups, committees and clubs write their comments on what they are doing in our town.

Mary Bessent



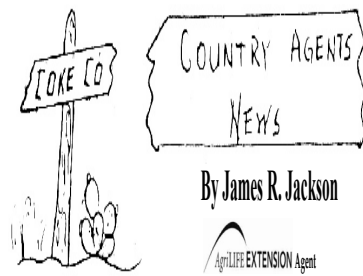
And the winner of the pizza from Cindy's goes to...Haleigh Soto. The winner can come by the Coke County Library to pick up her certificate any time between now and September 30, 2012. Congratulations, Haleigh.

All summer readers are requested to search their

shelves and under the beds and in the car for Coke County Library books. The Library charges no over-due fines for summer readers and looks forward to collecting all returns from the book drop or from the circulation desk.

A copy of a print by Charles Boutwell called "Treasures of Texas" is on display at the Library. The print which includes cactus, cattle, a windmill, bluebonnets, an oak tree and the land forms of Texas, and is beautifully framed, was donated to the '64 Study Club by the Robert Lee State Bank. The Study Club uses the raffle money to provide scholarships to Robert Lee ISD graduates.

Library hours are Tuesdays, 8-12; Wednesdays, 8-4; Thursdays, 1-5; Fridays, 8-12. Call 453-2495 for information.



This past week I had the opportunity to attend the 58th annual Beef Cattle Short course held on campus at Texas A&M University. This course offers everything from update on long-term weather predictions,

rangeland management, reproductive physiology and beef cattle business management.

One of the sessions was Brian Bledsoe, weatherman for the Southern Livestock Standard, who was one of several featured speakers Monday during the general session at Rudder Auditorium on the Texas A&M University campus. Bledsoe said the current weather patterns are reminiscent of the 1950s, but predicted West Texas and states such as Colorado; Oklahoma will leave hot temperatures and drought behind sometime this winter. When it breaks it's "going to break big time" Bledsoe said.

The driver for future weather change in Texas will be weather-maker storms on the West Coast this winter, which models indicate to be wetter than normal, Bledsoe told the group. "That's where our weather is going to come from," he told attendees, pointing to California and upper coastline states, where shades of blue on the map indicated moisture. Meanwhile, this winter, cold weather is predicted for November-January from the tip of Dallas up through the Midwest. Bledsoe said at least through the first couple of months the 2013 El Nino "will play some role in at

least temperature," especially during the months of February, March and April. "It stands to reason Texas and the Gulf Coast will be colder than normal for winter," he said. "Moisture will come and East Texas is predicted to be wetter than normal."

The courses most popular sessions were weather outlook and rangeland management. Other sessions of interest looked at rebuilding the head with today's cattle prices and the benefits of the latest reproductive management strategies such as using sexed semen to assist in the rebuilding process.

The Beef Cattle Short Course happens annually at Texas A&M University and is beneficial to the experienced cattleman looking to increase his knowledge in a specific area or helpful to the absentee landowner looking for information prior to purchasing a few head of cattle. The 2013 Beef cattle Short course is scheduled for August 5-7.

**Bronte Chamber meeting discussed**

The Bronte Chamber meeting was held Monday August 13, 2012.

Plans were finalized for the up coming OLDIES BUT GOODIES CAR SHOW.

Oldies But Goodies Car Show will be held August 18,

**Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase**

The WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT will hold two public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by -5.29 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The first public hearing will be held on August 28, 2012, at 9:30 am at ROBERT LEE CARE CENTER, CONFERENCE ROOM, 307 W 8TH, Robert Lee, Texas.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

- FOR: Mary Bessent, Dessie Kendall, Patsy Cason, and Sarah Green**
- AGAINST:**
- PRESENT and not voting:**
- ABSENT:**

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT last year was \$53,304. Based on last year's tax rate of \$0.249923 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed last year on the average home was \$133.22.

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT this year is \$52,670. If the governing body adopts the effective tax rate for this year of \$0.263890 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$138.99.

If the governing body adopts the proposed tax rate of \$0.249923 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$131.63.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the hearings and express their views.

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