

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

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Friday, August 26, 2016

TPWD sets longest dove season in eighty years

Record numbers anticipated
by Hal Spain

Wow! We just thought we had a really good dove season last year. This year promises to be even better, with the continued good growing conditions that began last year and have continued this past winter and spring. Texas Parks and Wildlife officials are expecting a record year for dove – so much so that they have lengthened this year's dove season from seventy to ninety days for the upcoming season.

There are however, some negative conditions that could affect this forecast, if they occur. For all of July and the first part of August, we have experienced hot, dry, typical summer weather, with near and above 100 degree temperatures, which has dried up many watering holes. If those conditions hold, that will be another plus for dove hunters, as water holes will be few and far between,

concentrating the dove numbers around tanks and other water sources late in the afternoon. For the past week or two, we have thankfully cooled off and experienced some early fall temperatures. If we get some much needed moisture during this period, it will have a negative effect on our dove hunting.

As to numbers, I have seen an increased number of mourning doves in the area due to the good feeding conditions. We also have a good number of whitewings; however, I have not seen the flocks of whitewings that I saw last year. In recent years we have experienced a large increase in collared doves, and this year is no exception.

As in most good dove hunting years, some of the best hunting opportunities will be at the very beginning of the season. Once those birds get some hunting pressure, they'll be off to a safe

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Welcome Rains! Coke County enjoyed a "gully washer" last Saturday, August 20, 2016. Rain totals ranged from over 7" inches around Oak Creek Lake to 6" near Robert Lee to only about .60" a couple of miles east of Bronte. Although some parts were more blessed than others, all areas of the county received needed rainfall. After a relatively dry Sunday, rains returned to both sides of the county on Monday as evidenced by this scene on Austin Street in downtown Robert Lee Monday afternoon. The water from each side of the street came close to touching in the center during a fast, heavy shower about mid-afternoon on Monday.

Goat Roping Fundraiser set for August 27

Robert Lee Street Affair, in conjunction with the 4C Coke County Cowboy Church, is hosting a Horseless Goat Roping Saturday, August 27, 2016, at the Coke County Park in Robert Lee. Books open at 6 pm and the roping will begin at 7 pm.

Barbecue plates will be available for purchase. Come to see the fun and festivities.

For more information, call Jason at (325) 234-9927 or Gina at (325) 234-9926.

Coach's Closet set for September 10

Robert Lee Baptist Church Women's Ministry Team is hosting their fall Coach's Closet! Coach's Closet is a clothing event where members of the community can come and get free clothing.

The event is set for Saturday,

September 10, 2016, from 10 am until 12 noon in the Robert Lee Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

The Coach's Closet clothing event is dedicated to Coach Kenneth Rasco, who gave generously to the community over many years.

Any and everyone can donate GENTLY used clothing items to Coach's Closet. If you are donating, please bring your clothing to the church office by Wednesday, September 7, before 5 pm. We accept clothing for men, women, children and infants. This is clothing ONLY. Please do not bring anything that you would not wear.

When the doors open on Saturday, every person will get a plastic trash bag and they will be able to get whatever items they like or need. There is no limit! Everything is given free of charge to any individual or family, regardless of economic status. This is for everyone!

FOOTBALL SEASON OPENERS!



**Robert Lee Steers
vs. Panther Creek Panthers**

Friday, August 26, 2016

7:30 pm

Panther Creek

**Bronte Longhorns
vs. Roby Lions**

Friday, August 26, 2016

7:30 pm

Roby



**Blackwell Hornets
vs. Paint Rock Indians**

Saturday, August 27, 2016

7:30 pm

Blackwell



HOME COMING!