

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County



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Friday, August 28, 2015

Football Season begins tonight

Coke County Championship set for Friday, August 28

The Robert Lee Steers will travel to Bronte to take on the Longhorns in an eleven man game Friday, August 28. Kick-off is set for 7:30 pm.

The old rivalry was revived last year in a hard fought six man contest last year in Robert Lee. Although the game was close in the first half, the Steers prevailed in this first game 58-49.

The football rivalry had been

put on hold in 2004 when the Steers began playing six man football.

The Steers are coming off a 7-2 record from 2014, while the Longhorns suffered a winless season last year.

Blackwell opens season at home

The Blackwell Hornets will host the Sterling City Eagles at 7:30 pm tonight to open their 2015 football season. The Hornets fell to Sterling City last year 24-38 on the road, but went on to compete in the play-offs.

Dove season set to open on Tuesday; Record numbers anticipated

by Hal Spain

Wow! What an upcoming dove season we are expecting. Record rainfall during the winter and spring seasons have resulted in good crop yields and a tangled growth of weeds. The end result is a great volume of seed heads, which should make this year's season a really good one.

One of the biggest negatives for local farmers and ranchers has been the 100 plus degree heat and dry weather we have experienced the last couple of months. 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.

As to numbers, I have seen large groups of whitewings around the house, as well as a good number of collared doves almost every day. It also seems like there is an increased number of mourning doves in the area due to the good feeding conditions.

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 zone, where they don't get shot at so much. If conditions get right to bring some northern birds into our area, we'll have some real hunting opportunities.

Tuesday morning, September 1, 2015, will mark the beginning of the new dove season in Coke County and throughout the Northern and Central zones of Texas. The Northern dove

hunting zone is basically the area above Interstate 20, with the Central zone being bordered on the north by Interstate 20 and on the southern end by Interstate 10. The South zone is below Interstate 10, and their season does not open until September 18.

The season in our area will run from September 1 through October 25, 2015, with an additional late season from December 18 through January 1, 2016. Daily bag limit is 15 mourning, white-winged, and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, to include not more than 2 whitetips. Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. Don't forget that there is no limit on collared doves; however, you will want to leave plumage on these birds for identification purposes.

Legal shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Don't forget to plug those autoloaders and pump shotguns, as dove are considered migratory birds, and plugs must be in place so that the firearm can hold no more than three shells.

A new hunting license will be required to hunt this fall, along with a \$7.00 migratory game bird stamp if you will be hunting dove or waterfowl, plus another \$7.00 stamp if you will be hunting upland game birds, which include quail, turkey, and pheasant. If you will be hunting waterfowl, you will also need to purchase a \$25 migratory game bird stamp endorsement (duck stamp).

Best of luck in your upcoming hunting endeavors. Don't forget

COKE COUNTY FOOTBALL!

Bronte Longhorns



VS.

Robert Lee Steers



7:30 pm Friday, August 28, 2015, Bronte

Blackwell Hornets vs. Sterling City Eagles

Friday, August 28, 2015

7:30 pm

Blackwell



to make safety your primary concern as you take to the fields this fall.

13th Annual Winters Dove Fest slated

The 13th Annual Winters Dove Fest will be held Saturday, September 5, 2015, at the Winters Community Center on FM 1770, 3 blocks east of US 83, in Winters.

There will be a Hunters Appreciation barbeque, gun and knife show, motorcycle fun run, art and crafts, entertainment, clay pigeon fun shoot, parade, and live and silent auctions.

Lunch will begin at 10:30 am. For more information, visit "Winters Dove Fest" on Facebook or call (325) 977-1036.

Christmas cards for Memorial Park

Vision with a Purpose is providing large 4' x 4' Christmas Greeting Cards to be displayed in Memorial Park for the holidays. Any business, individual, or family may purchase these cards and VP

with erect them.

A sample card will be displayed at Floyd C. Pettitt Insurance Co. at 715 Austin St., Robert Lee or contact Jan Pettitt at 325-212-0817.

This will be a beautiful display to help celebrate the holiday season and a chance to show your community spirit.

Commissioners Court minutes posted

The Coke County Commissioners Court met in regular session July 28, 2015, at the courthouse in Robert Lee. Members of the court present included County Judge, Roy Blair, Commissioner, Pct. #1 Troy Montgomery, Commissioner Pct, #2 Paul Williams, Commissioner, Pct. #3 Gaylon Pitcock, Commissioner, Pct. #4 Joe Sefcik. Clerk Mary Grim was also in attendance.

The meeting opened with prayer given by Judge Blair and pledge to the flag was recited.

Judge Blair announced the presence of a quorum.

Comm. Montgomery made a

motion to approve the minutes for July 14, 20, and 27th. The motion was seconded by Comm. Williams. Motion carried.

Comm. Williams made a motion to reinstate the burn ban. The motion was seconded by Comm. Sefcik. Motion carried.

Comm. Williams made a motion to discontinue using Tommy Morris and go with Texas Association of Counties on the County BCBS Health Care insurance renewal. The motion was seconded by Comm. Sefcik. Motion carried.

Treasurer Hal Spain presented to the Court Health Care Service Corporation TAC HEBP Cobra administration fees. No action was taken. He will get some clarification and bring back to the Court at a later time.

Comm. Williams made a motion to make changes on the Coke County Personnel Policy Handbook as presented. The motion was seconded by Comm. Pitcock. Motion carried.

Comm. Montgomery made a

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