

# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

*Serving Coke County*



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## Football Season begins tonight with unique county match-up

Tonight's football game between the Bronte Longhorns and the Robert Lee Steers won't be the first football game played between the two teams. However, it will be the first six-man football game played between the two teams. The Robert Lee Steers will host the Bronte Longhorns tonight in Robert Lee at 7:30 for a six-man football game – the first six-man game in which Bronte has ever competed.

The idea was first discussed last year during basketball season when Rocky Rawls, Bronte's athletic director, approached Shay Avants, Robert Lee's head football coach. Both men agreed they didn't want to pattern the game after the Throckmorton-Windthorst match-up. These two teams played one half with six men and the other half with eleven men. The Coke County coaches both felt that playing six man one year and then following the next year with an

eleven man game was the best course of action.

Bronte has been preparing for their visit to Robert Lee. For the second scrimmage week, the Horns traveled to Sterling City for a three-way scrimmage with the Eagles and Ira – both six man teams. Bronte's head coach Kevin Burns believes it will be an interesting match up coming down to which team can best execute the plays. Although his Longhorns will be at a disadvantage this year, that will turn around next year when they host the Steers for an eleven man competition.

The Blackwell Hornets also have a tough game tonight when they take on the Sterling City Eagles in Sterling City at 7:30 pm. The Hornets are a Division II six man team, while the Eagles are a Division I six man team.

The coaches discuss the upcoming season in an article on page 3 of this issue.

## Concerns aired at Monday's public hearing on county budget

Several citizens attended the Public Hearing to discuss the proposed 2015 Coke County budget Monday morning, August 25, 2014.

Of those requesting to be heard (evenly divided between Bronte and Robert Lee), each felt that the Commissioners Court was failing to put citizen safety as a top priority and urged the court to reconsider the budget they were proposing. Lee Wommack was the first to address the Court, pointing out that in the last six years eight deputies have resigned. He noted that all but one of these former deputies resigned to take much higher paying positions. Judge Roy Blair was the only member of the court to address the comments, promising that he would do his best to give the deputies a raise in next year's 2016 budget.

Concerns were also raised regarding the time of the public hearings with members of the public requesting hearings to be held in the evening in order for citizens to attend after work. After the public hearing, a

commissioners court meeting was held. Following several regular business items, the Commissioners entered into Executive session to discuss personnel matters. When regular session resumed, Judge Blair made a motion to terminate the employment of Jan Yanez, Texas AgriLife Extension Agent. After receiving a second, the termination went to a vote. Judge Blair, Commissioner Precinct 1 Gene Montgomery, Precinct 4 Commissioner Bobby Blaylock and Precinct 2 Commissioner Wendell Lee voted for the termination. Precinct 3 Commissioner Gaylon Pitcock voted against the termination.

The second and last Public Hearing regarding the proposed 2015 budget and the increased tax rate will be held at 9 am Tuesday morning, September 2, 2014, in the Commissioners Courtroom. The current tax rate for Coke County is \$504831 per \$100. The proposed tax rate is \$.547860 per \$100.

## FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL!



# Coke County Match Up!



**Robert Lee  
Steers**

vs.

**Bronte  
Longhorns**

*Friday, August 29, 2014*

*7:30 pm*

*Robert Lee*



**Blackwell Hornets**

vs.

**Sterling City Eagles**

*Friday, August 29, 2014*

*7:30 pm*

*Sterling City*

### Dove season set to open Monday

by Hal Spain

Monday morning, September 1, 2014, will mark the beginning of a 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 19.

As to our outlook for this year's season, I am predicting a pretty strong beginning of the season for most parts of the county. The dry spell that hit the county following the first of the year may actually be a positive for this year's dove season. As a result of the dry weather, most wheat fields were either left for grazing or were round baled for hay, leaving quite a bit of seed on the ground

for our incoming dove population. The showers that we have experienced in the last couple of weeks should also help bring up some good weeds and grasses to provide further support for migrating doves.

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. What I haven't seen is many mourning dove except for those few local

birds that stay here year round.

I think that like last year, there will be some hunting opportunities 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 mourning dove into our area, we'll have some real hunting opportunities for a short period, at least.

*(Continued on page 2)*

**PUBLIC HEARING  
Commissioners Court  
Tuesday, September 2  
9 am  
Commissioners  
Courtroom  
Coke County Courthouse**