

Coaches comment on upcoming season

By Melinda McCutchen
 Publisher

I was able to visit with each of the head football coaches earlier this week about the upcoming football season. All three coaches were upbeat and positive with regard to this year's teams.

Robert Lee's Coach Shay Avants felt that his Steers got better with each scrimmage. The offense is new and started off behind the defense, but both were executing at a high level by the end of the second scrimmage.

This year's team is fast and athletic with a lot of depth – four seniors and 21 underclassmen. However, those young players still need to gain experience at the varsity level.

The Steers played in a Division II six-man district last year and this year have been moved up to a really tough Division I district. Coach Avants feels Water Valley and Sterling City will prove to be the Steers' toughest competition at the district level. Veribest rounds out the Steers' district competition. This year's Homecoming is set for October 10th against the Eden Bulldogs.

The Longhorns had a little different scrimmage experience this year. Their first scrimmage was eleven man and their second scrimmage was six man in preparation for this week's game against Robert Lee. However, they still were able to tell Bronte's Coach Kevin Burns what he needed to know. The contests allowed him and the other coaching staff to evaluate what was working and what needed work.

With twenty-eight young men making up the Longhorns roster this year, there is depth and experience. The Longhorns only lost four seniors last year and are returning many players to this year's team.

The Longhorns once again have a very competitive district with Coach Burns feeling the playoff contenders won't be determined until the final game of the regular season. The Menard Yellowjackets and the Winters Blizzards will probably give the Longhorns their toughest district competition. Other teams in the district include the Miles Bulldogs, the Roby Lions and the Roscoe Plowboys. This year's Homecoming is September 19 against Baird.

The Blackwell Hornets impressed Coach Clint Lowry with their performances in the pre-season scrimmages. Coach Lowry is looking forward to a great season and he couldn't say enough about his team's hard work and great coachability.

The Hornets have more students on the roster this year and with this added depth comes the ability to rotate and rest players. These youngsters have also spent time in the weight room, making for a stronger team.

The year's team is returning only three lettermen – Frank

Cano, Wade Allen and Matthew Myer. A tough pre-district lineup will give the younger members the varsity experience they'll need going into district games.

Although the Hornets remain in a Division II district, they will face the Loraine Bulldogs and the Trent Gorillas. Both of these teams are fielding players with post-season experience. Moran rounds out their district competition. This year's Homecoming is September 6 against the Jayton Jaybirds.

Commissioners Court minutes posted

The Coke County Commissioners Court met in regular session August 11, 2014, at the courthouse in Robert Lee. Members of the court present included County Judge, Roy Blair, Commissioner, Pct. #1 Troy Montgomery, Commissioner, Pct. #2 Wendell Lee, Commissioner, Pct. #3 Gaylon Pitcock, Commissioner, Pct. #4 Bobby Blaylock. Deputy Clerk Martha Ratliff was also in attendance.

The meeting opened with prayer given by Comm. Blaylock and pledge to the flag was recited.

Judge Blair announced the presence of a quorum.

Comm. Lee made a motion to approve the minutes for July 28, 2014. The motion was seconded by Comm. Blaylock. Motion carried.

Treasurer Hal Spain discussed report to the court. Comm. Pitcock made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and the motion was seconded by Comm. Montgomery. Motion carried.

County Agent Morgan Runyon presented the county extension report.

Sheriff Wayne McCutchen presented the Sheriff's report.

Tax Collectors report was given by Judge Blair.

Clerk's report was presented by Deputy Clerk Martha Ratliff.

Constable Pct. 1 report was presented by Marshall Millican.

Constable Pct. 2 report was presented by Marty Boyd.

J.P. Pct. 1 report was given by Judge Blair.

J.P. Pct. 2 report was given by Judge Blair.

D.R. Report was presented by Judge Blair.

Trapper's Report was presented by Judge Blair.

No action was taken on the Burn Ban.

Judge Blair presented proposed tax rate for general. Comm. Lee made a motion to accept the proposed tax rate for general as .419790. Comm. Pitcock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Judge Blair presented the proposed tax rate for road and bridge. Comm. Montgomery made a motion seconded by Comm. Blaylock to accept the proposed tax rate for road and bridge as .128070. Motion carried.

Judge Blair presented the tax rate. Comm. Blaylock made a motion to accept the tax rate for 2014-2015 as .547860. Comm. Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried.



Sawyer Honored! Tom Sawyer Sr. was recognized for 50 years as a Mason. He became a Mason in 1963 in Rio Grande City, Texas. Presenting his pin was his son James Sawyer. Shown at the ceremony are (from left) Fred Wilson, George Gray, James Sawyer, B.W. Roe, Tom Sawyer Sr., Bobby Blaylock, Wayland Drennan, and J.B. Martin.

Comm. Lee made a motion to leave elected official salaries as is. Comm. Montgomery seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Comm. Lee made a motion to pay bills. The motion was seconded by Comm. Montgomery. Motion carried.

Comm. Pitcock made a motion to accept the agreement with Eckert & Company for audit services. Comm. Montgomery seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Gayle Sisemore presented the appraisal district 2013 annual report.

Comm. Lee made a motion to appoint election judges and alternates for September 1, 2014-August 31, 2015. Comm. Blaylock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Comm. Montgomery made a motion to approve the bond on Pat Menchaca. Comm. Blaylock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Judge Blair reported hearing dates for the budget are August 25, 2014 at 9 am and September 2, 2014 at 9 am.

There begin no private road requests no action was taken.

Comm. Montgomery made a motion to pay the bills. Comm. Pitcock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Judge Blair adjourned the meeting at 10:15 am.

Fall landscaping symposium slated

The Concho Valley Master Gardeners are presenting the Fall Landscaping Symposium Saturday, September 13, 2014, in San Angelo. It will be held at the Stephens Central Library Community Room at 33 W. Beauregard. Registration begins at 8 am with programs beginning at 8:30 am and continuing until 3 pm.

Mike Mosman, owner of Cactustown Texas will present "How to Affect All of Your Senses in a Low Water-use Landscape".

Farmer's Branch Park Landscape Manager Pam Smith will present "Roses for the Landscape".

Retired County Extension

Agent Debbie Frost will present "Best Plants ... Best Garden" and "Enhance the Garden Experience".

Pam Penick, author and landscape designer, will present "Lose the Lawn: Design Tips for Drought-Proof Gardens".

To RSVP, call (325) 659-6522 by Wednesday, September 10.

HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

All facilities of this bank will be closed

Monday, September 1st

In Observance Of

Labor Day

Please plan your banking requirements during regular banking hours to avoid any inconvenience.

Robert Lee State Bank

Member FDIC

453-2545 Robert Lee, Texas