

# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County



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## Coaches share outlook for upcoming football season

Football season is once again upon us. I visited with the head coaches earlier this week to get their take on the upcoming season.

Bronte Head Coach Kevin Burns felt that this year's scrimmages went a long way with helping determine what this new group of kids can do. It helped them realize the areas where improvement was needed.

With six returning starters on each side of the ball, the Horns can count on these starters and a number of older players stepping into new roles. In addition to this experience, they've got a lot of young talent coming in.

Coach Burns says his expectations for this year's team is no different than in year's past - a district

championship. When asked about the other teams in the Longhorns' district, he named Christoval as the team to beat, at least on paper. He wants to use each game of the non-district season to prepare his team for what is likely to be a tough round of district games. In fact, he said the district championship will probably not be determined until the final week of district competition.

Robert Lee and Blackwell are in a little bit different situation in their six-man district. They are the toughest teams in their district. Lohn is having a hard time fielding a team with only 6 players as of Monday morning and Panther Creek has a very young squad.

Robert Lee's Coach  
*(Continued on page 3)*

## Coke County has confirmed human case of West Nile virus

It was announced at Commissioners Court this past Monday, August 26, 2013, that a confirmed case of West Nile virus in a person has been found within our county's borders. No specifics were available, so everyone in our area should take precautions. Below is helpful information about the virus and steps to take for its prevention.

West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne illness. Up to 80 percent of people infected with West Nile virus will have no symptoms and will recover on their own. However, some cases can cause serious illness or death. People over 50 and those with weakened immune systems are at a higher risk of becoming ill if they become infected with the virus.

Your best defense is to practice these four habits:

- Use an approved insect repellent every time you go outside. Approved repellents are those that contain DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Follow the instructions on the label.

- Regularly drain standing water, including water that collects in empty cans, tires, buckets, clogged rain gutters and saucers under potted plants. Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water.

- Wear long sleeves and pants at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

- Use air conditioning or make sure there are screens on all doors and windows to keep mosquitoes from entering the home.

### What are the symptoms?

Most people infected with West Nile virus will not have any signs of illness. Twenty percent of people who become infected will have mild symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, and occasionally a skin rash on the trunk of the body and swollen lymph glands.

The symptoms of severe infection (West Nile neuro-invasive disease) include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis. Only about one out of 150 people

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## Opening Games of the 2013 Football Season!

**BRONTE LONGHORNS**

vs.

**Junction Eagles**

7:30 • Friday, August 30 • Bronte



**ROBERT LEE STEERS**

vs.

**Meeteetse, Wyoming Longhorns**

7:30 pm • Friday, August 30 • Robert Lee

**BLACKWELL HORNETS**

vs.

**Westbrook Wildcats**

7:30 pm • Friday, August 30 • Westbrook



## Dove season set to open Sunday

by Hal Spain

It's time once again for area hunters to try their luck with the gray ghosts of the shooting world. Sunday morning, September 1, 2013, 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 20.

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. A really nice cool spell that yielded 4 to 5 inches of rain during July has covered most pastures and fields with a good weed crop, along with a fair amount of hay and grain seeding out. I have seen

as many as 80 whitewings in a group around the house, as well as a large 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.

Your best bet is going to be around tanks and water sources late in the afternoons. And, there should be a good supply of dove around grain fields, if you are lucky enough to have access to any of these feeding areas.

The season will run from September 1 through October 23, 2013, with an additional late season from December 20 through January 5, 2014. 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 twice the daily bag limit.

Legal shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Don't forget to plug those auto-loaders 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 \$17 migratory game bird stamp endorsement (duck stamp).

Best of luck in your upcoming hunting endeavors. Make a mental note to make safety your main concern as you take to the fields this fall.