

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County



(USPS 467-480)
(ISSN 8750-197X)

Vol. 127, No. 09

Friday, September 5, 2014

Commissioners vote to increase deputies' salaries following hearing

Several citizens attended the final Public Hearing to discuss the proposed 2015 Coke County budget Tuesday morning, September 2, 2014.

The hearing lasted 37 minutes and was often contentious. When every citizen had taken their opportunity to speak, the public hearing was adjourned and a special session of Commissioners Court began.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Bobby Blaylock requested that the Court try and find funding within the proposed budget for an increase in salaries for the deputies. The court recessed for approximately 50 minutes and upon returning, Precinct 2 Commissioner Wendell Lee made a motion to give the Sheriff and his deputies a 7% salary increase for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2014. Commissioner Blaylock seconded the motion and Judge Roy Blair and Precinct 1 Commissioner Gene Montgomery both voted for the motion. Precinct 3 Commissioner Gaylon Pitcock did not attend the meeting.

The urgency for the increase became clear Monday morning, September 1, with the resignation of the newest member of the Coke County Sheriff's Office, Cody Capps. Capps, the only applicant when Deputy Davis resigned in July,

accepted a position with the Concho County Sheriff's Office. His resignation was the last in a list of 8 other deputies who have resigned for higher paying positions in the last five years.

The total adjustment to the Sheriff's budget was \$13,115 for the year. In order to maintain a balanced budget and not change the bottom line figures forcing a reset to the budget process, a corresponding amount was added to the projected revenue of the Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace budget.

The salary increase, to be funded from fees resulting from citations issued and paid through Judge Coulter's office, is not forcing a tax increase. Judge Blair made it clear in the meeting that the tax increase (from \$0.504831 per \$100 to \$0.547860 per \$100) was to increase the funds available to the Commissioners for roadwork.

The new budget was passed unanimously.

4-H...Opportunities are Endless

By Morgan Runyan
Texas AgriLife Agent
Now that the school year is back in full swing, there are lots of opportunities for students to be involved in a variety of activities and organizations. 4-H has an abundance of projects, contests, and community service



New Owners! Members of Robert Lee's Vision with a Purpose met to accept the keys to their new building on Austin Street in Robert Lee last Thursday, August 28, 2014. Shown are (from left) Marshall Millican, Sheri Millican, Debbie Childers, Gayland Hurst, Kay Hurst, Jeffie Roberts, Floyd Pettitt, Beverly Hawkins, Cyndy Caston, Gina Moran, WTU representative Mr. Garcia, Nancy Arthur, Todd Smith, and Blake Smith. Photo Courtesy of Leta Caston.

activities enabling each member to find something that suits their likes or sparks their interest. 4-H can help each of us develop our public speaking, leadership, and citizenship skills that will serve throughout the rest of our lives.

Earlier this summer, I had a column in the paper that outlined some new project areas in 4-H that are becoming more popular across the state. These projects include, but are not limited to, shooting sports, dog project, consumer decision making, junior master gardeners and sewing projects. So if you are interested in an organization that can help develop life skills, spark your passion, and give you an opportunity to help pay for your college education then 4-H is the organization for you!!

Meetings for Robert Lee are the first Wednesday of the month and Bronte is the second Wednesday of the month. This year, Coke County 4-H is going to do some new things, so stay tuned for all of the upcoming fun!!!

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS:

There will be a 4-H Parent meeting held Wednesday, September 10, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm at the Coke County Rec Hall in Robert Lee. This

meeting will give each of you the opportunity to sign your children up for 4-H, discuss the upcoming year, express ideas, and find out information on the project opportunities that your children are interested in. Volunteers are also welcome to enroll. I look forward to meeting all of the parents and 4-Hers for the 2014-2015 year.

BHRC Auxiliary meeting slated

After summer break, the Bronte Health and Rehab Center Auxiliary will be starting up with their monthly meetings. The first meeting will be Tuesday, September 16, 2014, at

1 pm in the dining room of the facility at 900 South State Street in Bronte. A lunch will be provided for a nominal fee for anyone who attends. However, a headcount is needed for lunch. Please call Doris Sims, at 325 473-3257, by NOON, MONDAY September 15, 2014, if you plan to attend.

If you have never attended an Auxiliary meeting and would like to help the residents at Bronte Health and Rehab Center, this is a great time to start. Make plans to attend and call by noon Monday, September 15, 2014, so that they'll know how many meals to plan for.

COKE COUNTY FOOTBALL!

Robert Lee Steers vs. Paint Rock Indians

Friday, September 5, 2014

7:30 pm

Paint Rock



Bronte Longhorns vs. TLCA Eagles

Friday, September 5, 2014

7:30 pm

Bronte



HOMECOMING 2014!!!

Blackwell Hornets vs. Jayton Jaybirds

Saturday, September 6, 2014

7:30 pm

Blackwell



**Regular Meeting
Commissioners Court
Monday, September 8
9 am
Commissioners
Courtroom
Coke County Courthouse**