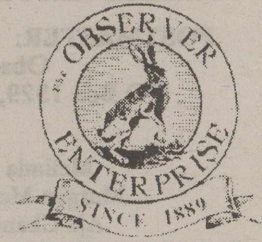


# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County



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

Vol. 129, No. 22

Friday, December 9, 2016

## Town Hall Meeting draws significant crowd of concerned citizens

A Community Town Hall Meeting was held at Addona's restaurant Monday evening, December 5, 2016. The purpose of the 7:30 pm meeting, attended by over fifty local residents, was to shed light on a lease awarded by the City of Bronte to Ronny Loyd near Oak Creek Lake.

The meeting opened with an opening statement by Nicholas Arrott II, attorney for the City of Bronte. He explained that Public Open Meeting statutes would not allow members of the council to attend the meeting. He also stated that he had advised the members of the council to not attend the meeting.

The City of Bronte has asked that the following statement be included. "On advice from the City Attorney, City Council members and City employees cannot comment on the lease agreement issue until the conclusion of that review. This information will be made available to the public when the review is concluded."

Arrott went on to explain that unlike a county attorney or district attorney which are elected

positions, as attorney to the City of Bronte, his attorney/client relationship was with the elected members of the council, including the mayor.

Bronte businessman Paul Knight, owner of Bronte Body Shop, took over the facilitation of the meeting once Arrott's statement was concluded. He explained what he knew of the situation.

According to a warranty deed recorded December 8, 2015, the City of Bronte purchased 90.269 acres from the City of Sweetwater. Although the deed does not reveal the purchase price, officials have said it was sold at \$1,300 per acre.

The City of Bronte requested bids through public notice for 71.900 of these acres to be sold with the City of Bronte retaining the water rights. A quorum of the Bronte City Council voted at the April 14, 2016, meeting to give authority to Mayor Gerald Sandusky to lease the remaining 18.369 acres to Ronny Loyd, 432 Lake Dam Road, Blackwell, Texas. Misti Bedford and Jodie Arrott were not present at this meeting. Voting for this lease were council



members Martin Lee, Wade Stautzenberger and Paul "Buzz" Gohman. Mr. Arrott did not draw up the lease, nor did he have the opportunity to review the lease before it was signed.

The lease for the 18.369 acres, signed and executed on April 18, 2016, totaled \$1 per year for 99 years. It renews automatically for additional 99 year terms at the same amount. There is no penalty for pre-payment. The lease also allows Mr. Loyd to pass this lease onto his heirs at the time of his death.

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Christmas Greetings deadline is December 12

It is time once again for Christmas Greetings! The Observer/Enterprise would like to remind businesses and individuals wishing to place a Christmas greeting in the newspaper to call or stop by and choose your greeting for the December 23rd issue.

Deadline for this year's greetings is Monday, December 12th at 12 noon. For more information or to place your greeting, contact the O/E office at 453-2433 or 473-8863.

The O/E office will be closed the week of December 26-30 and the annual Year in Review issue will be published Friday, December 30, 2016.

### Santa Letter Deadline set for December 13

Deadline for the Letters to Santa Claus to be printed in this year's Christmas edition has been set for Tuesday, December 13th, at 12 noon. As in the past, we will go by the schools and pick up their Letters for Santa for inclusion in the Christmas paper on December 23rd. We will forward these letters straight to Santa after we get through typing them up for the paper. This is why we have to have them early. As in the case of Letters to Santa which are

delivered to the post office, we will pick them up, type them for the paper and mail them on to Santa as fast as we can.

### Christmas in Olde Bronte set for December 17

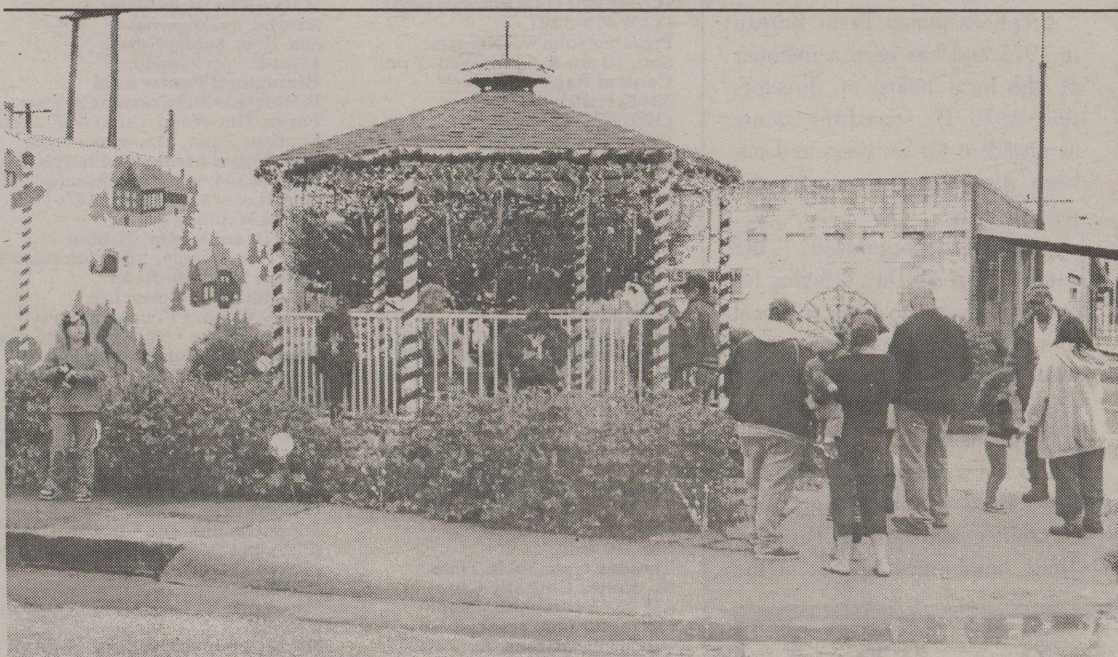
The annual Christmas in Olde Bronte celebration is slated for Saturday, December 17, 2016, this year. The events begin at 4 pm and will all be held in downtown Bronte.

Kickapoo Creek Lodge will open at 4 pm for drinks and holiday cheer. The Bronte Longhorn Band will provide live music in the Lodge, beginning at 4 pm.

Story time with Mrs. Claus will begin at 4:30 pm in the lobby of First National Bank.

Santa will set up shop to hear Christmas wishes at 5 pm at Kickapoo Creek Lodge.

The evening will end with a pajama party at the old Texas Theater. The Polar Express will be shown at 7 pm. Larry's Automotive, Glenn-Bivins Insurance and the Coke County Cowboy Church are sponsoring the movie and admission is free. Concessions will be available with all proceeds supporting the Bronte Park Restoration. Bundle up in your coziest pajamas and settle in to watch a great movie with your family and friends.



**Robert Lee Small Town Christmas!** Vision With A Purpose held its Christmas Open House, along with other businesses, in downtown Robert Lee on Friday, December 2, at their Austin Street headquarters. The building is under renovation, so those visiting the building could see the progress. Nancy Wilson of VP decorated inside and out for Christmas. Cupcakes and coffee were served.

Despite the weather, VP put on their usual spectacular Small Town Christmas, Saturday, December 3, at the gazebo and Memorial Park. The rain let up so Santa could find his way by fire truck to the gazebo at 4 pm to meet and greet children who told him their Christmas wishes. Food was served in the VP headquarters. Homemade stew, chili, cornbread, and gingerbread men were on the menu.

Renee Smith and her committee put in a lot of time decorating Memorial Park and the gazebo area, which was spectacular. The hayrides had to be cancelled because of the rain. All in all, despite the weather, it was a very successful evening.

Robert Lee residents and businesses are encouraged to enter the outdoor decorating contest. Applications are available at This 'n That Shop, Coke County Hardware and Floyd Pettit Ins. Co. Deadline for applications is December 10. Awards of \$100, \$75 and \$50 will be given. Also, a "Griswald Lights UP" (Christmas Story) has been added this year. Winners will be announced December 20.

Coke County

# Christmas

Season Activities

**Saturday, December 17**  
**Christmas in Olde Bronte**  
**Downtown Bronte**



**THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE**

Published Weekly  
 707 Austin (325) 453-2433 (325) 453-4643 Fax  
 o-c@wcc.net www.ObserverEnterprise.com  
 Periodical Rate Postage paid at Robert Lee, Texas

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to  
 Observer/Enterprise  
 PO Box 1329, Robert Lee, Texas 76945

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

Per Year in Coke County ... \$30.00  
 Per Year Elsewhere in Texas ... \$35.00  
 Per Year Outside of Texas ... \$37.00

**Obituaries**



**Millican**

Ruby Pauline (Polly) Peek Millican lived her life with quiet grace, gentle strength and an unwavering faith in her Lord and Savior. She died peacefully Monday afternoon, November 28, 2016, in Robert Lee, Texas, at 93 years old. Visitation was held all day Friday, December 2, 2016, at the funeral home with family present from 6 pm to 8 pm. Funeral services were at 10 am Saturday, December 3, 2016, at Pecan Baptist Church with burial following in Paint, Creek Cemetery. Services were under the direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

Born April 30, 1923, at home in Jones County, Texas, Polly attended Denton Women's College in Denton, Texas. She taught school and coached volleyball at White Point, Texas, and Robert Lee, Texas. On June 15, 1947, Polly married the late Conrad Jarrel Millican. They shared a life together for 60 years and spent decades ranching in Coke County. The Lord blessed their union with five children. Polly was a Christ-centered woman who instilled strong Christian values in her family. They were faithful members of Pecan Baptist Church, where Polly taught adult Sunday school class for more than 30 years. She also served as president for the Pecan WMA for many years.

Polly was devoted to her husband and to her children and grandchildren. She shared close relationships with her siblings, other family members and friends. As an accomplished seamstress, she sewed many outfits for her loved ones, and anything sewn by Granny was

superior to anything that could be bought in a store. She loved baking, and was especially well known for her homemade bread and cherry cobbler. She lived out her faith daily -- a true Proverbs 31 woman who set the bar high for those aspiring to be like her. She was a problem solver, with a practical and straight forward but simultaneously peaceful and diplomatic approach. She never tired with her grandchildren, always active and ready for a walk to the tank in their nearby pasture, a front-yard volleyball match or a card game of UNO. Living on a ranch meant being surrounded by animals, but she had a special place in her heart for her Siamese cats. She poured out so much love and will be greatly missed.

Polly was preceded in death by parents, Albert and Sally Peek; husband, Conrad Millican; son, Jarrel Millican; granddaughter, Erin Ketner; and nine of her siblings.

She is survived by sister, Dorothy Sparks of San Angelo, Texas, sister-in-law, Joanne Peek of Snyder, Texas, sister-in-law, Joy Blake and her husband Charles of Brenham, Texas, and sister-in-law, Bertha Ham of San Angelo, Texas. She is survived by daughter-in-law, Linda Millican of Water Valley, Texas, daughter, Sherry Lacy and husband John of Brenham, Texas, son, Steven Millican and wife Paquita of Zaragoza, Spain; son, Tim Millican and wife Pam of Robert Lee, Texas, daughter, Elaine Ketner and husband Russ of Norman, Oklahoma. She is survived by grandkids, Lori Huitt and husband Terry of Big Spring, Texas, Vance Millican and wife Jenny of Harper, Texas, Eli Millican and wife Audrey of Houston, Texas, Nicole Friedel and husband Darren of Hockley, Texas, Natalie Lange and husband Harper of Brenham, Texas, John Lacy and wife Lauren of Arvada, Colorado, Karla Lassen and

husband Matthias of White Plains, New York, Alexander Millican of Germany, Scot Millican and wife Wendi of Eldorado, Texas, Heather Conner of Lubbock, Texas, Matthew Millican and wife Macy of San Angelo, Texas, Tyler Ketner and wife Nicole of Benton, Arkansas, Jacob Ketner and wife Angie of Owasso, Oklahoma, Luke Ketner of Washington, Oklahoma. She is survived by her 22 great-grandchildren, Garrett and Channing Miller, Tallie Millican, Ashlyn Millican, KatieLynn and Dean Friedel, Tice and Slade Lange, Charlotte Lacy, Sofia Lassen, Austin and Gage Millican, Alexa and Micayla Conner, Hudson, Hayden, Ryder Millican, Lincoln, Shepherd, Barrett, and Jade Ketner, and Esther Ketner.

Serving as pallbearers were her grandsons, Vance Millican, Eli Millican, Scot Millican, Matthew Millican, John Lacy, Tyler Ketner, Jacob Ketner, Luke Ketner.

Online condolences may be made at [www.shafferpioneer.com](http://www.shafferpioneer.com).

22-1tc

**Stephens honored with TFB Pioneer award**

A local farmer who has dedicated more than 40 years of his life to agriculture was honored by Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) today. John E. Stephens of Robert Lee received TFB's prestigious Pioneer award at the organization's annual meeting in San Antonio.

Stephens began farming and ranching in 1966, growing wheat, hay and milo and raising both sheep and cattle.

"For 41 years, Mr. Stephens has donated his time and talents to the Coke-Sterling County Farm Bureau and Texas Farm Bureau," TFB President Russell Boening said. "It's men and women like Stephens who help form the foundation that makes TFB the great grassroots organization it is today. We're proud to honor Stephens for his many contributions."

Stephens joined Farm Bureau in 1975 and has been a member of the local board of directors since 1976. He served his county as president for six years and has been the vice president for the past 16 years.

Stephens organized the county's first Ag Day, bringing his own equipment to town for local fourth grade students to explore while he explained the importance of agriculture.

Stephens has also helped reach out to the community by chairing the Food Connection Day committee and hosting Farmers' Share hamburger lunches at the



John Stephens

county office.

He's known locally as "The Face of Farm Bureau" for his countless hours promoting agriculture and Farm Bureau.

In their nomination, the Coke-Sterling County Farm Bureau board of directors said, "As a grassroots organization, John Stephens is the kind of Farm Bureau member who not only maintains the principles that Farm Bureau is built on, including hard work and fiscal responsibility, but pushes forward for the development of the organization so it grows and remains relevant in today's fast-paced climate of

science and technology."

Stephens worked for the Texas Department of Transportation for 36 years and was a member of the local school board and Lions Club. He's an active member and deacon of the First Baptist Church in Robert Lee.

TFB's Pioneer Award honors one outstanding Texas farmer or rancher in each of the organization's 13 districts, as well as one staff member. Winners are chosen annually by a panel of their peers for their exceptional contributions to agriculture and Texas Farm Bureau.

**Area Churches**

*Invite You to Worship*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Bronte</b><br/> <b>Bronte Church of Christ</b><br/>                 PO Box 346 • 118 S. Jefferson • Bronte<br/>                 (325) 473-3291<br/>                 Preacher John V. Driggers<br/>                 Sun. 10 am &amp; 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm</p> <p><b>Central Baptist Church</b><br/>                 324 S. Franklin • Bronte<br/>                 (325) 473-4811<br/>                 Dale Patterson, Pastor<br/>                 Sun. 10 am Sunday School<br/>                 11 am &amp; 5 pm Worship</p> <p><b>First Baptist Church</b><br/>                 424 S. Washington • Bronte<br/>                 (325) 473-2331<br/>                 Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,<br/>                 10:55 am Worship,<br/>                 5 pm Worship<br/>                 6 pm Youth<br/>                 Wednesday 7 pm Prayer Meeting</p> <p><b>First United Methodist Church</b><br/>                 Corner of Washington &amp; Holmes<br/>                 Bronte<br/>                 (325) 473-3281<br/>                 Rev. Everette Boyce, Pastor<br/>                 Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School<br/>                 11:00 am Worship</p> <p><b>Forgiven Ministries</b><br/>                 117 W. Main, Bronte<br/>                 Russ Frasier, Pastor<br/>                 Sun. 10 am<br/>                 Tuesday 6 pm Table Time</p> <p><b>St. James Catholic Church</b><br/>                 215 N. Washington, Bronte<br/>                 (325) 365-2687<br/>                 Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor<br/>                 Sun. 5 pm</p> <p><b>4C Cowboy Church</b><br/>                 Texas Theater, Downtown Bronte<br/>                 Pastor James Brunson<br/>                 Sunday, 10:30 am</p> | <p><b>Robert Lee</b><br/> <b>Bible Baptist Church</b><br/>                 PO Box 938 • 9th &amp; Austin<br/>                 Robert Lee, Joe Hodges, Pastor<br/>                 Sun. 10 am Sunday School,<br/>                 11 am &amp; 6 pm Worship,</p> <p><b>Emmanuel Pentecostal</b><br/>                 PO Box 683 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy<br/>                 Pastor Tim Wood (325) 453-2360<br/>                 Sundays 2 pm, Thursdays 7 pm</p> <p><b>First United Methodist Church</b><br/>                 PO Box 144 • 9th &amp; Chadbourne<br/>                 Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417<br/>                 Cyndi Weidner, Pastor<br/>                 Sun. 10 am Sunday School<br/>                 11 am Worship, 5 pm Choir Practice</p> <p><b>Iglesia Bautista Betel</b><br/>                 101 Houston • Robert Lee<br/>                 Sun. 9:45 am • Sunday School<br/>                 11 am Service • Bible Study Wed. 6 pm</p> <p><b>Southside Church of Christ</b><br/>                 PO Box 698 • 8th &amp; Houston<br/>                 Robert Lee (325) 453-2176<br/>                 Jordan Arnold, Preacher<br/>                 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School<br/>                 11 am &amp; 6 pm, Worship<br/>                 Wed. 6 pm, Worship</p> <p><b>Northside Church of Christ</b><br/>                 PO Box 508<br/>                 9th &amp; Chadbourne • Robert Lee<br/>                 (325) 453-2685, (806) 543-2118 or<br/>                 (325) 473-1053<br/>                 Services: Sun. 10 am</p> <p><b>Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church</b><br/>                 601 W. 10th, Robert Lee<br/>                 (325) 365-2687<br/>                 Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor<br/>                 Sat. 6 pm</p> <p><b>Robert Lee Baptist Church</b><br/>                 PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th<br/>                 (325) 453-2724<br/>                 Danny White, Pastor<br/>                 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School<br/>                 11 am &amp; 7 pm, Worship<br/>                 Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting</p> <p><b>Victory Assembly of God</b><br/>                 (325) 453-2208, PO Box 638<br/>                 6th &amp; Houston, Robert Lee<br/>                 Rev. Irving Smith, Pastor<br/>                 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School<br/>                 10:45 am &amp; 6 pm, Worship<br/>                 Wed. 6 pm, Bible Study</p> <p><b>Tennyson</b><br/> <b>Tennyson Baptist Church</b><br/>                 Hwy 277 • Tennyson<br/>                 (325) 473-2040<br/>                 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School<br/>                 11:00 am &amp; 6 pm, Worship<br/>                 Wed. 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting</p> |
|---|---|

**Russell Davis**  
Agent

611 Austin Street  
 PO Box 1079  
 Robert Lee, Texas 76945  
 (325) 453-4505 office  
 (325) 453-4524 fax  
 (325) 650-1904 mobile  
 TXFB-INS.COM



**Tax Office closed  
December 14**

The Coke County Tax Office will be closed Wednesday, December 14, 2016, for Equipment replacement and training. Please make your plans accordingly.

**Vinson to present concert  
at RLBC**

Don Vinson will be presenting a Christmas Concert at Robert Lee Baptist Church on Sunday, December 11, at 7 pm. All members of the community are welcome to attend.

**Kickapoo Water Board  
Sets Election**

Coke County Kickapoo Water Control and Improvement District #1 will hold an election on January 10, 2017, to elect three directors.

Directors Ronnie Robbins and Mark Duncan have filed for reelection to the board.

The election will be held at Bronte City Hall.

For further information concerning the election, contact Clerk Fran Sonnenberg by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 23, 2016.

**Old Coke County Jail  
has new fence**

The Old Coke County Jail now has an iron fence for the next century. The Old Jail building has undergone a restoration project to preserve it for the next 100 years. Both of these events were due to the interest of Charles and Joy Millican Blake who have close family connections to Coke County. It was Joy Blake's vision that the iron fence would define the property of the Old Jail and the Blakes have generously funded the project.

Preservation funds to restore the Old Jail building were secured with the help of Charles Blake, who in Mrs. Robert Cole Johnson's will was appointed to identify and fund from her estate historical restoration projects to be chosen by him. Mrs. Johnson and her husband moved to Brenham, Texas, from Ohio and were very close friends, as well as being next-door neighbors, of the Blakes.

Joy is the daughter of William and Jewie Brown Millican who ranched in the Edith Community. Joy's Grandfather David Frances Millican and his family arrived in Coke County in the 1890's, driving their herd of cattle from Mills County, Texas. Two other brothers of David Francis also arrived and settled in Coke County about the same time.

Charles is the son of Reverend Reuben Blake and Velma Smith Blake. For several years during the 1940's, the Reverend Blake served as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Bronte and later, upon retirement, he and his wife returned to Bronte where they lived until their deaths. Reverend Reuben Blake's brother, Reverend Fred Blake, was also Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Robert Lee at the same time that his brother, Reuben, served as Pastor in Bronte.

Jeff McCrea, who was the contractor for the restoration project, worked with Steve Clark of Bronte to design and install the fence. Each section was hand-forged by Mr. Clark to

accommodate space for gates and to fit the contours of the Old Jail grounds. In keeping with the historical preservation, the fence will be recognized way into the future as a hand-forged, built in Coke County, piece of history.

The Old Jail and hand-forged fence will stand for the next 100 years as brick and mortar reminders of Coke County history and all the folks who served and lived here in bygone days. The area is a symbol that the world did not begin yesterday, and that local history is part of the big picture.

**... Town Hall**

*(Continued from page 1)*

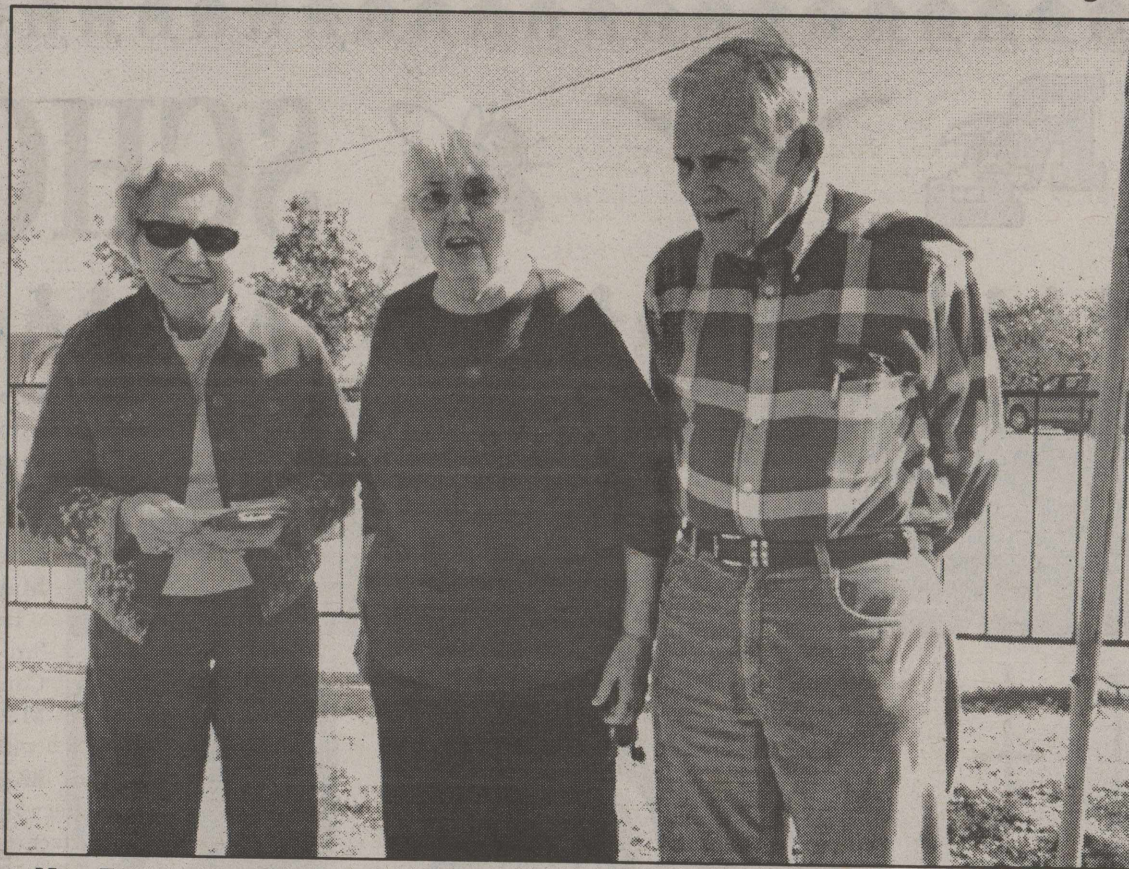
Mr. Knight pointed out that the lease would provide no benefit to the citizens of Bronte and further noted that it was not a legal lease due to it not being temporary. He read the following from Texas Municipal Procurement Laws Made Easy Section 1-5.

*Essentially, if the facts of the situation determine that a lease of the real property is for such an extended period that it would almost amount to a sale, the lease may be subject to the requirements for advertising the sale of real property under Chapter 272 of the Local Government Code.*

He told of his experience at three previous city council meetings where the council selectively answered citizens during the public comment section, a violation of the open meetings laws.

Knight relayed a visit to his business from Bronte City Council Member Martin Lee where he felt Lee attempted to intimidate him into keeping silent on this issue.

Various citizens during the meeting expressed their displeasure with what they saw as the "good ole boy network". It



**New Fence for an Old Jail!** Joy Millican Blake, Phelan Wrinkle, CCHC Treasurer, and Charles Blake discuss the hand-forged iron fence outlining Old County County Jail area.

was pointed out that Martin Lee had served a total of 16 years as Mayor of Bronte and was currently a member of the city council and Gerald Sandusky served on the council previously before being elected as Mayor, an office he's now held 12 years.

One citizen in attendance spoke in support of Mayor Sandusky, Councilman Lee and Ronny Loyd. He explained that the city had made enough off the sale of the 71.90 acres that they owned the 18.369 acres free and clear. He further stated that Loyd was supposed to tear down 27 dilapidated houses in Bronte, using the wood and reclaimed materials to build a bed and breakfast on the acreage. The bed and breakfast would be owned by Loyd and used by visitors to Fort

Chadbourne. A water well was to be drilled to possibly provide Fort Chadbourne with water.

Others attending agreed Fort Chadbourne is a positive addition to Coke County, but did not feel the city's planning in this situation was good for Bronte and its citizens.

It was noted that it was a "positive" for the city not to have any money in the 18.369 acres, but if it was advertised for sale, the resulting income would be pure profit into the city's budget. Also, since the city had retained water rights on the 71.90 acres, if sold, they could also retain the water rights to the 18.369 acres.

It was also pointed out that there was no legal contract between the City of Bronte and

Ronny Loyd obligating him to tear down and remove the dilapidated houses, build a bed and breakfast or anything other than paying the \$1 per year lease.

When Mr. Knight was asked what he hoped to accomplish through this process, he replied that he wanted the contract rescinded and the mayor, secretary, and council members who voted for the lease to resign. His statement was met with applause by those in attendance.

A petition was circulated requesting a review and investigation into this matter. It was said that the Texas Ranger for this area had been contacted.

The lease is on the agenda for the city council meeting Thursday, December 8, 2016, at 8 pm.

**Christmas in Olde Bronte**

*Saturday December 17th, 2016*

4:00 pm: Live Music from Longhorn Band in the Kickapoo Creek Lodge!

4:30 pm: Story time with Mrs. Claus in the lobby of the First National Bank!

5:00 pm: Santa arrives at Kickapoo Creek Lodge!

7:00 pm: "The Polar Express" Pajama Party at the Texas Theatre! (Free Admission)

\*Drinks and Holiday Cheer in the Kickapoo Creek Lodge beginning at 4\*

www.restoringbrontefoundation.org  
www.facebook.com/restoringbrontefoundation

**Ho! Ho! Ho!**

Next Christmas you can make the holidays more enjoyable by opening a Christmas Savings Account now. Save for next year's Christmas bills early and have peace of mind! Come see us. *You'll feel good!*



**Robert Lee  
State Bank**

621 Austin Street Robert Lee, Texas

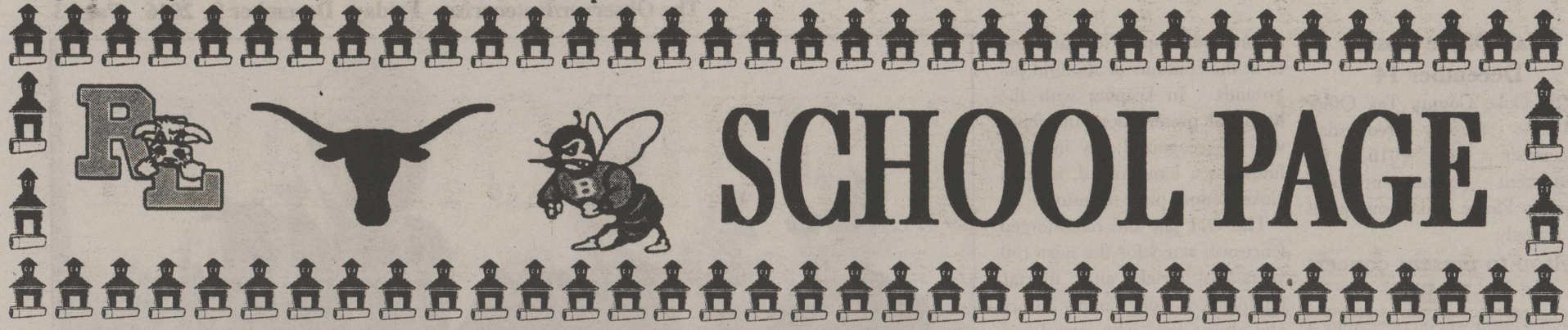
453-2545

MEMBER  
FDIC



**EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY TO US!**





**Robert Lee UIL Awards Ceremony set for December 16**

Robert Lee Independent School District will hold an Awards Ceremony on Friday, December 16, at 9:30 am in the RLISD cafetorium. This ceremony will recognize students in grades 2nd - 6th who placed in events at the District 11A - Zone 2 UIL Academic Meet held in December in Garden City.

All parents and family members are encouraged to attend. Please call the elementary office at 453-4555 if you have any questions.

**Blackwell junior high UIL placings announced**

Blackwell CISD sent 21 junior high students to compete at the UIL meet in Garden City Saturday, December 3. The students earned a combined total of 354 points and finished 3rd as a school. Results are below.

**7th grade**

**Calculator Skills**

3rd place team Samuel Ottaberry, Cadi Powers, and Stockton Solis

**Chess**

1st place Samuel Ottaberry, 6th place Stockton Solis, and 1st place team Reid Hoyle

**Editorial Writing**

1st place Cadi Powers and 6th place Stockton Solis

**Impromptu Speaking**

1st place Cadi Powers

**Listening Skills**

1st place Cadi Powers and 2nd place team Reid Hoyle and Ryder Hoyle

**Maps, Graphs, And Charts**

3rd place Cadi Powers

**Mathematics**

6th place Samuel Ottaberry

**Modern Oratory**

1st place Cadi Powers, 3rd place Reid Hoyle, and 4th place Gloria Gonzalez

**Number Sense**

3rd place team Chloe McKinney, Samuel Ottaberry, and Cadi Powers

**Oral Reading**

5th place Stockton Solis

**Ready Writing**

4th place Cadi Powers

**Science I**

3rd place Tyson Walls

**Social Studies**

3rd place Tyson Walls and 4th place Cadi Powers

**Spelling**

5th place Cadi Powers

**8th grade**

**Art**

3rd place team Maddy Bell, Darrian Kenney, and Caitlin Lange

**Calculator Skills**

3rd place team Cameron Coldiron, Allison Panzer, and Nathaniel Shipman

**Chess**

5th place Nathaniel Shipman and 3rd place team Maddy Bell and Jaydon Taylor

**Editorial Writing**

2nd place Maddy Bell and 3rd place Jadyn Feitshans

**Impromptu Speaking**

3rd place Caitlin Lange

**Listening Skills**

4th place Maddy Bell and 3rd place team Zachary Panzer and Carson Sorrells

**Maps, Graphs, Charts**

1st place Nathaniel Shipman; 3rd place team Caitlin Lange, Carson Sorrells

**Mathematics**

4th place Nathaniel Shipman

**Modern Oratory**

2nd place Darrian Kenney, 3rd place Maddy Bell, and 5th place Caleb Sirmons

**Number Sense**

6th place Nathan Shipman and 3rd place team Darrian Kenney and Maddy Bell

**Science**

2nd place Nathaniel Shipman, 4th place Carson Sorrells; 3rd place team Darrian Kenney

**Social Studies**

4th place Carson Sorrells and 3rd place team Maddy Bell and Jaydon Taylor

**Spelling**

4th place Maddy Bell

**Blackwell Menu**

**Breakfast**

**Monday, December 12**

Kolache, fruit, juice, milk

**Tuesday, December 13**

Pancake, sausage, fruit, juice, milk

**Wednesday, December 14**

Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk

**Thursday, December 15**

Biscuit-n-chicken, fruit, juice, milk

**Friday, December 16**

donut, fruit, juice, milk

**Lunch**

**Monday, December 12**

Boneless wing chunks, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, fruit, milk

**Tuesday, December 13**

Homemade beef enchiladas, refried beans, Spanish rice, fruit, milk

**Wednesday, December 14**

Beef broccoli lo-mein noodles, egg rolls, fruit, milk

**Thursday, December 15**

BBQ weenies, scalloped potatoes, pork n beans, fruit, milk

**Friday, December 16**

Hamburger w/fixins, chips, fruit, milk

**Bronte Menu**

**Breakfast**

**Monday, December 12**

Chicken-n-biscuit or choice of cereal, toast/jelly, fruit, juice, milk

**Tuesday, December 13**

Breakfast pizza or choice of cereal, toast/jelly, fruit, juice, milk

**Wednesday, December 14**

Stuffed Bagel & sausage or choice of cereal, toast/jelly, fruit, juice, milk

**Thursday, December 15**

PBJ sandwich or choice of cereal, toast/jelly, fruit, juice, milk

**Friday, December 16**

Sausage & biscuit or choice of cereal, toast/jelly, fruit, juice, milk

**Lunch**

**Monday, December 12**

Bbq on a bun, pinto beans, coleslaw, orange smiles, milk

**Tuesday, December 13**

Steak finger basket w/fries, rolls, gravy, carrot coins, apple slices, milk

**Bronte Body Shop, LLC**

Complete Auto Body Repairs & Paint

Insurance Claims Welcome

Formerly Paul's Body Shop

**PAUL KNIGHT**

123 N. State  
(325) 473-2425

Bronte, Texas  
(325) 450-2281

**Glenn-Bivins Insurance**

325-473-6791

[GlennBivinsUsa@aim.com](mailto:GlennBivinsUsa@aim.com)

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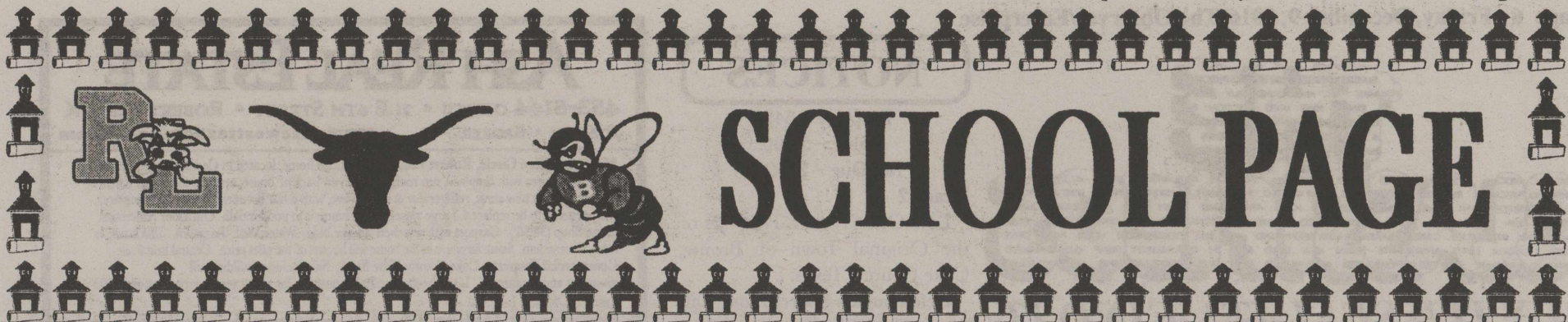





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**SCHOOL PAGE**



**Wednesday, December 14**

Hot ham & cheese pretzel sandwich, garden salad, tomato-cucumber cup, snowball salad, milk

**Thursday, December 15**

Popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes w/gravy, green beans, rolls, apple-pineapple d'lite, milk

**Friday, December 16**

Pizza, seasoned corn, baby carrots, mixed fruit, cookie, milk

**Robert Lee Menu**

**Breakfast**

**Monday, December 12**

Waffles, fruit, juice, milk

**Tuesday, December 13**

Biscuit & gravy, fruit, juice, milk

**Wednesday, December 14**

Cinnamon roll, fruit, juice, milk

**Thursday, December 15**

SEC pretzel sandwich, fruit, juice, milk

**Friday, December 16**

Breakfast burrito, fruit, juice, milk

**Lunch**

**Monday, December 12**

Pizza, broccoli bites, baby carrots, mixed fruit, milk

**Tuesday, December 13**

Hot ham & cheese pretzel sandwich, tomato-cucumber cup, salad, snowball salad milk

**Wednesday, December 14**

Texas basket, carrot coins, apple slices, cookie, milk

**Thursday, December 15**

Bbq on a bun, coleslaw, pinto beans, orange smiles, milk

**Friday, December 16**

Philly cheese steak sandwich, potato rounds, green beans, apple-pineapple d'lite, milk

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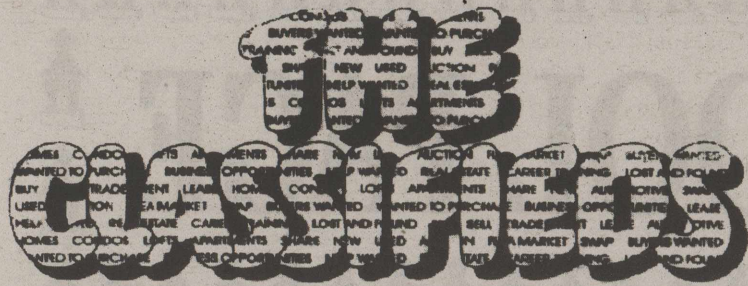
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**Annual  
Christmas  
Greetings  
Issue  
December**

**23,**

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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Nice scooter for disabled person with new ramp. Needs battery. \$1,000. Call 325-763-8270 or 473-6731.

22-2tp

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Has storage buildings for rent. 473-2221, 473-0409.

45-tnc

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*Catfish or Shrimp*  
All the Fixin's  
**\$8.99**  
per plate

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409 W. 10th  
Robert Lee  
453-9200

**NOTICES**

Property - 6498  
Value - 5,500  
Tax Due - 2062.35

**Tract 2**

Lots One (1) and Two (2) of the Original Town of Bronte, Coke County, Texas.

Defendants - Sherri Lynn Taft Stapp, Individually and as heir of Gerald B. Taft, Deceased, 5136 Lake Placid PL Waco, TX 76710;

Judith Estelle Taft, Individually and as heir of Gerald B. Taft, Deceased, 513 Karen St, Hewitt, TX 76643-2931;

Patricia Taft, Individually and as heir of Gerald B. Taft, Deceased, 1601 E Slaughter Lane #171, Austin, TX 78747-1740;

Lacey Nichole Taft Robinson, Individually and as heir of Gerald B. Taft, Deceased, 1413 Shelburne St, Waco, TX 76711-1439;

Sandra Jo Brannen, Individually and as heir of Gerald B. Taft, Deceased, 301 Santa Fe Dr, Woodway, TX 76712-3931;

David Michael Stapp, Individually and as heir of Gerald B. Taft, Deceased, 241 Private Road 1329, Stephenville, TX 76401-6701;

Laura Jean Taft, Individually and as heir of Gerald B. Taft, Deceased, 2306 Cumberland Ave, Waco, TX 76707-1414;

Property - 6621  
Value - 7,400  
Tax Due - 1709.10

**Tract 3**

1.0 acre tract of land, more or less, out of Survey 3, Abstract 59 Bronte Acres, Abst 59, Sec 3, C & M Ry Co Survey and being the same property described in a Warranty Deed recorded in

**HELP WANTED**

**CNA'S NEEDED**

for Sterling County Nursing Home. Starting wages \$12.00/hour plus shift differentials and mileage allowance. Excellent retirement and insurance. Call Ashley Porter or Amanda Arispe at 325-378-2134.

49-tnc

**NOTICES**

**ROBERT LEE ISD**

Is holding a Public Hearing on the 2015-2016 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas. Hearing to be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room 119.

22-2tc

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF COKE**

By virtue of Tax Warrant issued out of the 51st District Court of Coke County, Texas in Cause # CV1604630 on the 5th day of December, 2016, by the Clerk thereof, and to me as Sheriff, directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell at 10:00am, on the 3rd day of January, 2017 at the Main Door of the Coke County Courthouse, in Robert Lee, Texas, the following described to wit:

**Tract 1**

East half (E/2) of Lots Nine (9) and Ten (10) and all of Lots Eleven (11) and Twelve (12) in Block Thirty-four (34) of the Original Town of Bronte, Coke County, Texas

Defendants - Treadwell, Phillip Daniel, 6506 Sonora Dr., Granbury, TX 76049

Bob Frazeels 944-0010  
473-6603

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**NEW LISTING** 100 acres on Hurley Road north of Robert Lee. Seller will drill new well for water. Property has good cover for wildlife and will make good hunting track or rural home site. \$1,595/Acre.

**1103 Acres** in Crockett County, fully furnished 2400 SF ranch house, 60x40 shop, 3 water wells, mountainous terrain and paved frontage. \$1,083/Acre

**PRICE REDUCED** 300 Acres -North of San Angelo, on FM 2662 new water well, paved frontage, Surface pond stocked with fish. Great hunting property \$1,125/acre. Partial Minerals

**PRICE REDUCED** 324 Acres -East of San Angelo on FM 765 near Eola, rural water, barns and pens, all new fences, some acreage was previously in farmland. \$1,850/Acre

**NEW LISTING** -Glasscock 2500 acres south of Stanton, 200 acres in farmland, remaining in pasture. Lodges with a total of 12 rooms 12 bath rooms. Good water. \$2.95 million.

**REDUCED!** 314 Acres -Glasscock 3600 acres, two water wells, house and barn, 3600 acres. \$2.95 million.

**PRICE REDUCED!** 190 Acres -Glasscock 190 acres, one water well, good hunting, electric. \$250/acre.

**SOLD**

**ASH REAL ESTATE**

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**564 Lake Shore Circle, Robert Lee, Tx.** 2BR/2B home, located in Cedar Cove Addition. Large living area with fireplace, sun room (12x30') on back of house, ceramic tile floor. Kitchen contains almost new stove, refrigerator & microwave, with a bar between kitchen & dining area. Carpet needs to be replaced. Large closets. The house is in good repair. Out Door Amenities. Large Shop (30'x36'). Carport with attached storage bldg. Water Well. Large lot. The house is ready to move into. Some furniture in the house will be part of the sales price. Central heat & air.

**Commercial Property, Coke County Hdw. Store.** Sale includes building, all inventory and equipment. It has been a profitable business for many years and is located at 801 Austin St., Robert Lee, TX

**New Listing:** 3 BR/2 BA Home (2000 sq. ft. +/-) located close to school. 3 lots (100x140) being the entire N/2 of Blk 27. 2 living areas, central heat & air, carpeted except kitchen, privacy metal fence with covered patio. House in good repair. Located at 1521 Bishop Street.

**3 BR/2BA Home** close to school, 1800 sq. ft. +/-, living area, large bedrooms, large backyard with concrete patio, shingle siding with composition roof, hardwood floors, large living area, pier & beam construction, garage attached. House needs some repairs.

**2 BR/1BA House** in Bronte. House needs repairs, but could be a starter home. Fenced backyard. Close to school. Located at 224 W. Riley Avenue.

**Large House, 380,801 ac.** SOLD Robert Lee, with Great Hunting

1,120 acres - 1/4 of minerals sold with property, good hunting \$1,350/acre

1,122 acres - High Fenced, Exotics sold with property, excellent water

Other Tracts Available

Price Reduced! Robert Lee - 2 BR/2 BA - updated inside & out, many amenities

volume 108 page 320 of the Deed Records of Coke County, Texas, such description being incorporated herein by reference.

Defendants - Smith, Dorothy, individually and as an heir of Tom W. Smith, Deceased, 200 E. Elm St., Breckenridge, TX 76424;

Thomas Willard Smith, Jr, individually and as an heir of Tom W. Smith, Deceased, Address Unknown;

Beverly Gail Hamilton, individually as an heir of Bedie Elizabeth Hamilton; an heir of Tom W. Smith, Deceased, 2228 Valleyview Blvd #512, San Angelo, TX 76904-8078;

Deborah Hamilton, individually and as an heir of Bedie Elizabeth Hamilton, an heir of Tom W. Smith, Deceased, 321 N Murray St, Winters, TX 79567-4719

Property - 1248  
Value - 1,500  
Tax Due - 417.77

**Tract 4**

Lots One (1) and Two (2), Block One (1) in the Maxwell

Addition to the City of Bronte, Coke County, Texas

Defendants - Rodriquez, Juanita P, 8031 Rust Road, San Angelo, TX 76905

Property - 6852  
Value - 1,500  
Tax Due - 1461.69

**Tract 5**

0.200 acre tract of land more or less, out of Bronte Acres in Abstract 59, Section 3, C & M Ry Co Survey, City of Bronte, Coke County, Texas; and being the same property described in a Warranty Deed in volume 106 page 325 of the Deed Records of Coke County, Texas.

Defendants - Mary Miller individually and as heir of Donny R. Miller, Deceased, 1114 Kiowa St., Sweetwater, TX 79556

Property - 1244  
Value - 540  
Tax Due - 263.06

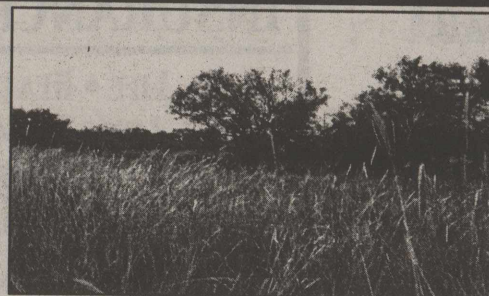
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**NOTICES**

**Tract 6**

0.75 acre tract of land out of Bronte Acres, in Abstract 62, Section 5, C & M Ry Co Survey, City of Bronte, Coke County, Texas.

Defendants - Little Miller, Address Unknown;  
M.E. Miller, Address Unknown

Property - 1271  
Value - 1,200  
Tax Due - 1445.13

**Tract 7**

1.0 acre tract of land in Abstract 1371, Section 452, J.M. Williams Survey in the City of Bronte, Coke County, Texas and being described in a Warranty Deed in volume 81 page 119 of the Deed Records of Coke County, Texas, such description being incorporated herein by reference.

Defendants - Kathrine McDonald, Deceased % Emily R. McDonald, PO Box 511, Blackwell, TX 79506;

Katherine McDonald, Deceased % John D. McDonald II, 339 Eds Rd, Blackwell, TX 79506-3030;

F. E. McDonald, Deceased; Address Unknown

Property - 9998  
Value - 1,500  
Tax Due - 737.25

**Tract 8**

Lot Three (3) in Block Seventy-eight (78) of the Original Town of Bronte, Coke County, Texas and being the same property described in Warranty Deed 183 page 530 of the Deed Records of Coke County, Texas, such description being incorporated herein by reference.

Defendants - Mann, Stephen Jeffrey 3809 Wild Rye Dr., Apt 13 San Angelo, TX

Property - 6723  
Value - 900  
Tax Due - 1226.83

**Tract 9**

0.33 acres tract of land out of Bronte Acres and being a portion of the A.J. Adams Survey #1, Abstract 7, City of Bronte, Coke County, Texas and being the same property described in a Warranty Deed in Volume 43 Page 231 of the Deed Records of Coke County, Texas, such description being incorporated herein by reference.

Defendants - King, Sam Estate, Address Unknown

Property - 1012  
Value - 330  
Tax Due - 331.53

**Tract 10**

0.500 acre tract of land out of Section 451, Abstract 252, H & TC Ry Co Survey, City of Bronte, Coke County, Texas and being the same property described in a Deed recorded in Volume 28 Page 285 of the Deed Records of Coke County, Texas, such description being incorporated herein by reference.

Defendants - Johnson, J.L. and J.M. Baker, Address Unknown

Property - 9985  
Value - 800  
Tax Due - 427.99

**Tract 11**

Lot Thirteen (13) in Block Two (2) of the Maxwell Addition to the City of Bronte, Coke County, Texas

Defendants - Hernandez, Andres, Address Unknown

Property - 6867  
Value - 750  
Tax Due - 615.11

**Tract 12**

Lot Two (2) in Block Six (6) of the Maxwell Addition to the City of Bronte, Coke County, Texas

Defendants - Gutierrez, Miguel Jr, PO Box 807, Cleburne, TX 76033;

City of Bronte, Lienholder

Property - 6879  
Value - 750  
Tax Due - 588.92

**Tract 13**

Lot Seven (7) in Block Fifty-five (55) of the Original Town of Bronte, Coke County, Texas and described in Warranty Deed volume 296 page 333 of the Deed Records of Coke County, Texas.

Defendants - Floyd, John N., 4503 Mathis St., Midland, TX 79707

Property - 6604  
Value - 500.00  
Tax Due - 490.19

**Tract 14**

Lot Six (6) in Block Forty-nine

(49) of the Original Town of Bronte, Coke County, Texas and described in Volume 296 Page 330 of the Deed Records of Coke County, Texas.

Defendants - Floyd, John N., 4503 Mathis St., Midland, TX 79707

Property - 6569  
Value - 500.00  
Tax Due - 384.24

**Tract 15**

East half (E/2) of Lot Ten (10) in Block Fifty-nine (59) of the Original Town of Bronte, Coke County, Texas

Defendants - Collins, Dorothy R. individually and as heir of Eddie G. Collins, Deceased, %Susan Collins, 5202 Provencal Dr, Austin, TX 78724-5334;

Collins, Dorothy R. individually and as heir of Eddie G. Collins, Deceased, % Lauren Alyssa Williams, 10921 Yukon St NW Minneapolis, MN 55433-3930

Property - 6618  
Value - 500.00  
Tax Due - 284.40

**Tract 16**

Lots Five (5) and Six (6) in Block Eighteen (18) of the Original Town of Bronte, Coke County, Texas

Defendants - Coleman, Randal, 2197 Club House Ln, San Angelo, TX 76904-8751

Property - 6431  
Value - 1,000  
Tax Due - 195.32

**Tract 17**

Lot Four (4) in Block Eighteen (18) of the Original Town of Bronte, Coke County, Texas

Defendants - Coleman, Randal, 2197 Club House Ln, San Angelo, TX 76904-8751

Property - 6430  
Value - 500  
Tax Due - 97.64

**Tract 18**

North half (N/2) of Lot Seventeen (17) and all of Lot Eighteen (18) in Block Fifty-three (53) of the Original Town of Bronte, Coke County, Texas

Defendants - J. F. Clark and Louvenia Clark, Deceased;

Heirs of J.F. and Louvenia Clark; F.L. Clark, R.G. Clark, Minnie Clark, Heitte Clark, W.C. Clark, Cova Clark, Tannie Clark, May Clark, Addresses Unkown

Property - 6597  
Value - 2,500  
Tax Due - 1219.01

LEVIED ON the 5th day of December, 2016, as the property of those persons listed above to

satisfy taxes, penalties, and interest and all costs of seizure and sale against those persons listed in said Warrant and any other unknown owners in favor of the Taxing Units listed in said Tax Warrants.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS THE 5th DAY OF December, 2016.

Wayne McCutchen  
Sheriff, Coke County, Texas

22-2tc

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**County Hunter Appreciation Dinners!** Both the Bronte and Robert Lee Hunters Appreciation Dinners were successes this year. The annual lunch, sponsored by B&K Deer Processing (left photo), was held during the lunch hour on opening day of deer season, November 5, 2016, at the Rusty Bell in downtown Bronte. The Bob Winkle Memorial Hunters Appreciation Dinner, sponsored by Vision with a Purpose, was held Saturday evening, November 12, 2016, at the Rec Hall in Robert Lee.

**December Vision with a Purpose meeting held**

Vision With A Purpose held its December 1st meeting at 6:30 pm at Victory Assembly of God. After President Marshall Millican called the meeting to order, Pastor Cyndi Weidner opened with prayer.

Sheri Millican read the minutes from the last meeting and they were approved.

Crystal Stanford gave the treasurer's report. The Hunter's Bar B Q attendance was down this year, but we did make a profit with 218 in attendance.

Electricity is now in our Austin Street headquarters reported by Brandon Broadbent, making it available for Robert Lee's Open House and Small Town Christmas.

Renee Smith and Dianne Hefner gave an update on Small Town Christmas. Renee and

her committee of Kay and Gayland Hurst, Dave Hughes, Sheri Millican, Grace Todacheeny, Noel Tinkler, Beverly and Larry Broughton, Todd Smith, Dianne Hefner and Ginny and Charissa Caston worked very hard to make Memorial Park and the gazebo area the most beautiful yet.

Nancy Wilson was responsible for decorating the VP building along with Robert Lee State Bank and City Hall. She also filled the flower pots around town with Christmas decorations.

Members voted to continue to participate in "Adopt a Grandparent" this year at the Robert Lee Nursing Home.

Debbie Childers presented the Heartworkers for the month of November to Todd Smith and Brandon Broadbent for their hard work on the Austin Street headquarters. Todd is owner of

Precision Construction. He and wife Renee have been very active and loyal members since the formation of VP. Brandon is a newer member of VP. He is an independent contractor.

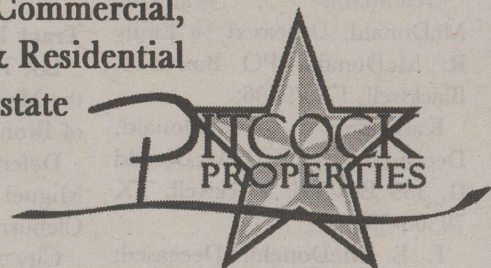
Debbie Childers closed the meeting with prayer.

VP is always looking for new members, so if interested, we'd love to have you. Our organization was formed for the Beautification and Restoration of Robert Lee. Our next meeting is Thursday, January 5, 2017, at Victory Assembly of God. Please join us.

**Friends of the "Gus" Pruser Exhibit to Meet**

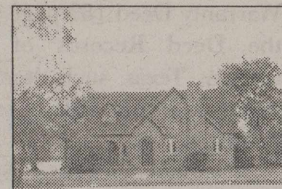
The Friends of the "Gus" Pruser Agriculture Exhibit will hold their monthly meeting next Monday, December 12, at 6 pm. The meeting will be at the Gus Pruser Agriculture Exhibit, located at 219 W. Dale in Winters.

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**GORGEOUS FAMILY HOME!** Beautiful updated 4 bedroom home on corner lot in established neighborhood with gorgeous large windows throughout. Privacy fence, lots of storage and extras! Large trees highlight landscaped yard and covered patio is perfect for entertaining! Near park and golf course!

**WONDERFUL CRAFTSMANSHIP!** Beautiful older home with lots of extras - built-ins, hardwood floors, cedar closet, decorative ceilings, stained glass inserts, antique chandeliers and more! Lovely porches and trees! New tile in kitchen! Updated with modern convenience while keeping old world charm!



**MANY UPDATES!** Large older home is just perfect for family. Hardwood floors in living room, dining room, and two bedrooms. Numerous built-ins throughout home, huge closets, woodburning stove in den, 2 car attached carport. Potential efficiency apartment or guest house on property includes full basement and 2 car attached carport. Loads of character in this home on 1.91 acres.

**PRICE REDUCED!** Cute home on two lots in rural community with many updates and metal roof only a couple of blocks from the school! A large fenced-in backyard with pecan trees and reasonable price make this an excellent option for first-time home-buyers or rental property investment! Many extras including a storm shelter!



**QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD!** Brick home in quiet Bronte neighborhood, just blocks from school! Open Floor Plan! Storage Building! Workshop! Fireplace! Wood Floors! Carport! Fenced Back Yard! Large Trees! Perfect home for family!


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