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Vol. 130, No. 25

Friday, December 29, 2017

2017 Year in Review Issue

We are entering a new year. As we say goodbye to 2017, I making headlines this past year.

While combing through all of the 2017 issues, I quickly realized that there was no possible way to include you was omitted. Also, we have not included any of the school

By Melinda McCutchen, activities. Our area students are Publisher extremely talented, earning honors in academics, sports, UIL, and other extra curricular hope readers enjoy this look activities. There would be no back at a few of the stories way to include all of the honors earned in 2017 by these students.

The majority of this issue is dedicated to 2017. Current news is included on pages 6 and 7. I everything. I'll apologize in sincerely want to thank our advance if a story important to readers, contributors and advertisers for your support this last year.

City Council Controversy! Controversy in the Bronte and Robert Lee City Councils continued throughout this year. The trouble that began in late 2016 for the Bronte City Council over a \$1 per year land lease continued through the last meeting of 2017 with the attorney for the city present at the meeting. Elections in May replaced three members of the council. Shown in the bottom photo are attorney for the city, Paul "Buzz" Gohman, Jim Rodriguez, David Bedford, Gerald Sandusky, city secretary Crystal Blevins, Stormy Vaughn and Wade Stautzenberger.

Robert Lee City Council issues began later in the year with a city business license ordinance that was found not to be in effect due to the failure to publish the ordinance. In the fall, numerous discrepancies were discovered leading to the suspension and later termination of the city secretary. Shown in the top photo are Leroy Casey, city secretary Kay Torres, Shaunna Grantham, Roger Alexander and Joe Longoria. Janie Munoz was present at the meeting, but is not pictured. Longoria has since resigned.





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Wishing Everyone a Happy, Blessed and Prosperous 2018!

SELETE PER SER SER SELETER

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Friday, December 29

High School Basketball -Varsity Tournament at Eden

Monday, January 1

Holiday Closures -Coke County Courthouse Bronte City Hall Robert Lee City Hall

Tuesday, January 2

High School Basketball -

Bronte at Garden City, 4 pm, JV Girls and Boys, Varsity Girls and Boys Robert Lee at Sterling City, 5 pm, JV Girls, Varsity Girls and Boys Blackwell vs Veribest, 5 pm, JV Girls and Boys, Varsity Girls and Boys

Thursday, January 4

Bronte High School NHS Induction Ceremony, 7 pm, BHS Library

Friday, January 5

High School Basketball -

Bronte vs Sterling City, 5 pm, JV Girls and Boys, Varsity Girls and Boys Robert Lee vs Blackwell, 4 pm, JV Girls and Boys, Varsity Girls and Boys

Provided By



EverythingCokeCounty.com

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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> STAFF Melinda McCutchen, Publisher Morgan McCutchen Brigham, Editor

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



his Lion's Club 20 Year Pin by Todd Smith. John has devoted many years of service to Robert Lee through

including the Lions Club and

organizations

various

Memorial Day! A Memorial Day Celebration was held Monday, May 29, 2017, at the Blackwell Cemetery. The guest speaker was World War II veteran Ed Cumbie of Bronte. The Fort Chadbourne Cavalry were on hand and the Sweetwater Municipal Band provided patriotic music. In addition to the Flag Ceremony, the names on the Honor Roll of Veterans buried in the Blackwell Cemetery were read. Jody Bell was the event's Master of Ceremony, with Rev. Jeff White, pastor of Blackwell's First Baptist Church, giving

the invocation and benediction. A memorial tribute table was available for attendees to display personal memorabilia.



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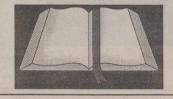
(325) 473-3291
Preacher David Lewis
Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm
Central Baptist Church
324 S. Franklin • Bronte
(325) 473-4811
Dale Patterson, Pastor
Sun. 10 am Sunday School
11 am & 5 pm Worship
First Baptist Church
424 S. Washington • Bronte
(325) 473-2331
Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,
10:55 am Worship,
5 pm Worship
6 pm Youth
Wednesday 7 pm Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 7 pm Prayer Meeting First United Methodist Church Corner of Washington & Holmes Bronte

Bronte
(325) 473-3281
Rev. Everette Boyce, Pastor
Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
Forgiven Ministries
117 W. Main, Bronte
Russ Frasier, Pastor
Sun. 10 am
Tuesday 6 pm Table Time Tuesday 6 pm Table Time St. James Catholic Church 215 N. Washington, Bronte (325) 365-2687

(323) 363-2687 Rev. Yesu Mulakaleti, Jr., Pastor Sunday Bilingual Mass 8 am 4C Cowboy Church Texas Theater, Dowtown Bronte Pastor James Brunson Sunday, 10:30 am

Coke County
Pecan Baptist
PO Box 542 •12 miles West of
Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy
(325) 453-2065, Bill Hood, Pastor www.pecanbaptist.org Sun. 10 am, Sunday School 11 am & 7 pm, Worship



Robert Lee
Bible Baptist Church
PO Box 938 • 9th & Austin
Robert Lee, John Fiore, Pastor RobetLee, John Fiore, Pastor
Sun. 10 am Sunday School,
11 am Worship,
Emmanuel Pentecostal
PO Box 683 •1019 Colorado City Hwy
Pastor Kevin Millstid 453-2360
Sundays 10 am, Wednesdays 7 pm
First United Methodist Church
PO Box 144 •9th & Chadbourne
Robet Lee • (325) 453-2417
Cyndi Weidner, Pastor
Sun. 10 am Sunday School
11 am Worship, 5 pm Choir Practice
Iglesia Bautista Betel
101 Houston • Robert Lee
Sun. 9:45 am • Sunday School
11 am Service • Bible Study Wed. 6 pm 11 am Service • Bible Study Wed. 6 pm

11 am Service • Bible Study Wed. 6 pm Southside Church of Christ PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston Robert Lee (325) 453-2176 Recardo Reyes, Preacher Sun. 10 am, Sunday School 11 am & 6 pm, Worship Wed. 6 pm, Worship Wed. 6 pm, Worship Northside Church of Christ PO Box 508
9th & Chadbourne • Robert Lee (325) 453-2685, (806) 543-2118 or (325) 473-1053
Services: Sun. 10 am

Services: Sun. 10 am

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
601 W. 10th, Robert Lee
(325) 365-2687
Rev. Yesu Mulakaleti, Pastor
Saturday Vigil Mass 5 pm
Robert Lee Baptist Church
PO Box 493 •22 W. 11th
(325) 453-2724
Danny White, Pastor
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
11 am & 7 pm, Worship
Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting
Victory Assembly of God
(325) 453-2208, PO Box 638
6th & Houston, Robert Lee
Rev. Irving Smith, Pastor Church

Rev. Irving Smith, Pastor
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship
Wed. 6 pm, Bible Study
Tennyson
Tennyson Baptist Church
Hwy 277 • Tennyson Hwy 277 * Tennyson (325) 473-2040 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School 11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship Wed. 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting









Political Visits! September was definitely the month for political visits in Coke County. Texas State Senator Charles Perry began with his visit to the Rec Hall in Robert Lee on September 6. The visits continued with Texas Representative Drew Darby. Darby began September 19, 2017, with a breakfast meeting at Red Barn in Bronte at 8 am, followed by a town hall at the courthouse in Robert Lee later

that morning. That afternoon, Mike Conaway, our Representative in the United States House, held a town hall at the courthouse in Robert Lee.



Russell Davis Agent

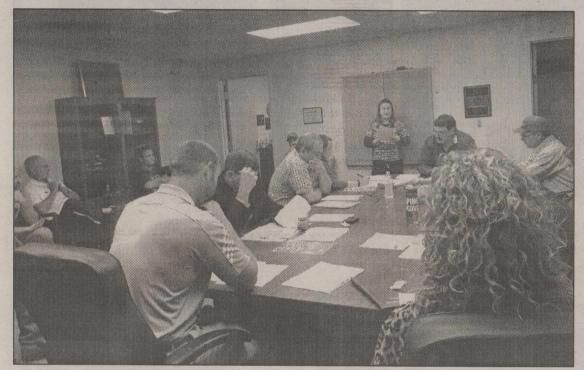
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Robert Lee, Texas 76945
(325) 453-4505 office
(325) 453-4524 fax
(325) 650-1904 mobile
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Happy New Year -- We want to wish all of you a Happy New Year and a very prosperous 2018.



Larry M. Gilbert, AAMS[®] Financial Advisor 122 N. 8th St. Ballinger, Texas 76821 325-365-2505 Maxine Michalewicz Sr. Branch Office Administrator

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Ceke County Championship Coming Back! Daylene Knight addresses the Board of Trustees for the Bronte Independent School Board regarding the possible move to 6 Man football at their regular meeting Thursday evening, March 9, 2017. Several members of the public addressed the Board, along with BISD Athletic Director Rocky Rawls, on this subject. Following a lengthy open discussion considering all aspects, expenses and consequences of the change, the Board voted unanimously to drop down to 6 Man classification beginning 2018-2019 school year. Members of the BISD Board of Trustees are Shane Kelton, Ashley Braswell, David McWright, Jodie Arrott, John Seales and Blake Braswell.



New Meters! Robert Lee city workers and others worked in yards and alleys replacing the old water meters with new digital meters. The new program is the result of a 70/30 grant/received by the City of Robert Lee for this purpose.

HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

All facilities of this bank will be closed Monday, January 1.

In Observance Of

New Year's 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





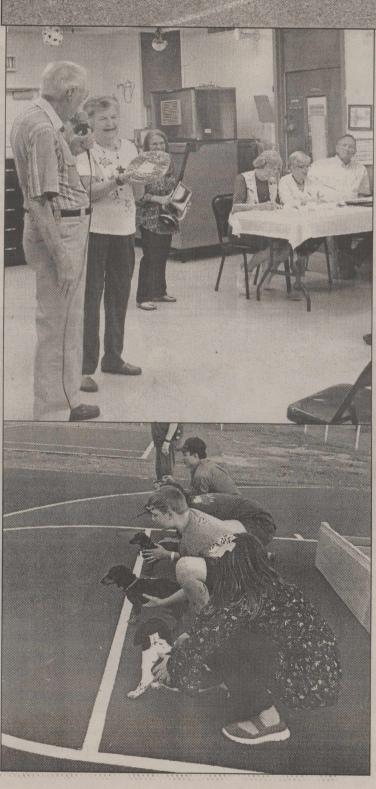


COKE COUNTY CELEBRATIONS

Left, from top - Jail Celebration, Robert Lee; Park Playground Grand Opening, Bronte; 4th of July Parade, Robert Lee;

Right, from top - Park Fun Day, Bronte; 4th of July Parade, Robert Lee; BHRC 4th of July Celebration, Bronte; Bronteoberfest Weenie Dog Race, Bronte





Coke County Law Enforcement



Murder Suspect Arrested! Sheriff Wayne McCutchen and Deputy Anthony Lopez escort Eric "Sleepy" Estrada to a patrol car following his surrender Thursday afternoon in Bronte. A warrant for Estrada's arrest regarding a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon had been issued following a February 4, 2017, incident in Mendard County. DPS officers and Texas Rangers were working on the shooting investigation and tracked Estrada to the location. Following Estrada's arrest, a search warrant was issued for the residence and Sabrina Garcia was taken into custody on prior





Stolen Vehicle Recovered! This Dodge Charger was stolen in San Angelo last Friday morning, August 4, 2017. It was recovered during the lunch hour that day by Coke County Sheriff's deputies at the Stripes in downtown Bronte. The case is currently under investigation by the Coke County Sheriff's Office and the San Angelo Police Department.





Drug Busts! A traffic stop by a deputy with the Coke County Sheriff's Department resulted in the seizure of drugs and a rifle (above photos, photo at left). While responding to a call of shots fired in the north part of Bronte recently, a deputy stopped a suspicious vehicle in the 200 block of South Jefferson. The driver, a San Angelo resident, was arrested for Driving While License Suspended/Invalid. One passenger, a Bronte resident, was arrested for Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Marijuana. The other passenger from San Angelo was arrested for Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Hydrocodone, and Possession of Marijuana.

Coke County Chief Deputy Sheriff Brandon Neal discovered the following drugs and drug paraphernalia (photo below) while checking on a stranded motorist north of Bronte on March 13, 2017. In addition to the drugs, the man taken into custody also had an active arrest warrant from Travis County for a probation violation.



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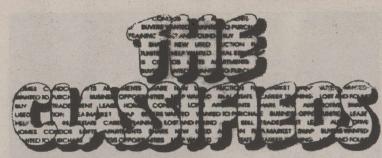
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SELL IT! FIND IT

Political

Calendar

This publication has

been authorized to

make the following

announcements for

the political offices

Each candidate or the

campaign treasurer has

paid for his or her

announcement.

Justice of the Peace

Precinct 1

Russell Johnson

Jackie Walker

County Judge

Hal Spain

County Treasurer

Therese Emert

FOR SALE

1205 W. 12th Street

Robert Lee, Texas - \$79,900

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Income producing pecan trees.

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in Coke County.

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A service charge will be added to all ads which must be billed.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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 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.



FOR RENT

BRONTE MINI STORAGE

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

45-tnc

For our Bronte customers' convenience, there is a **Drop Box at** SHIRLEY'S PLACE in Downtown **Bronte**

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

WANTED

WANT TO LEASE

Half Section to 2 sections of land for grazing. Contact Wayne McCutchen at (325) 473-3201.

03-tnp

NOTICES

PROPERTY FOR SALE CITY OF BRONTE

MINIMUM BID: \$500.00. 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 commonly known as 222 N Fayette St, Bronte, TX 76933, USA.

Please note: by agreeing to this purchase, you also agree to bring the property to meet city ordinance requirements and/or state minimum requirements. The existing structure must be demolished and debris must be removed within six months of the execution date of deed.

HOW DO I BID?

You may place a bid online at www.texascg.com or www.bronte texas.org or you can simply go to Bronte City Hall and submit a bid, which is the price you would consider paying for the property you wish to buy. Should you meet the requirements listed above and your bid is sufficient and accepted by all entities, we will then send the deed to be recorded. The recorded deed will then be forwarded to the

FOR SALE - 201 acres, close to Robert Lee, Texas. Good hunting with highway frontage and a creek running through the property.

surface tanks.

ASH REAL ESTA

FOR SALE - 1214 Chadbourne Street, Robert Lee, Texas.

Patio and Backyard, Storage Building. Close to the school!

453-5144 OFFICE • 21 E 6TH STREET • ROBERT LEE, TX

Joe Ash • Broker/Owner www.amcwesttexasranches.com

FOR SALE - 564 Lake SOLD Cove Addition, Robert, Lee, Texas.

FOR SALE - 112 W. 12th Street, Robert Lee, Texas. 3BR/2B home, 1800 sq. ft.

FOR SALE - 224 Riley Street, Bronte, Texas. Good Starter Home! Close to the

FOR SALE - 1120 acres, southwest of Robert Lee, Texas. Good ranch land with

good hunting for deer, turkey, dove, and quail. Easy access, electricity, wells, and

Living Area, Central Heat and Air, Hardwood Floors, Attached Garage, Large

BRONTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION -ASSISTANT TO EDC PRESIDENT/ SECRETARY/

provide assistance to the EDC President, Secretary Treasurer. Individual must have experience taking minutes and finances. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact City Hall before January 12th at (325) 473-3501.

TREASURER

BRONTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **CORPORATION** -**BOARD MEMBER**

The Bronte Economic

individual at the address that Development Corporation is accompanied your successful looking for individuals to serve as Board Members. The ideal candidates will have experience in business, tourism, and/or economic development, coupled with vision and commitment to our community's economic growth and prosperity. If you would like to submit your name for consideration for a The Bronte EDC has a term appointment as a Board voluntary position available to Member of the Bronte EDC, please contact City Hall before and January 12th at (325) 473-3501.

22-6tc



Farm-Ranch, Commercial, Recreational & Residential Real Estate



NEW LISTING! A brand new roof tops this family friendly home not far from Robert Lee ISD in an established neighborhood! Large 4 bedroom offers open living/kitchen/dining area with glass doors leading out into a wonderfully shaded backyard with beautiful trees! This home has plenty of space to spread out, but with a cozy feel! Updated granite counter tops and much





OVER 2700 SQUARE FEET in this large 4 bedroom 2 story home with 2 full baths and 1 half bath! Living room with space for the whole family and a large kitchen with open concept dining! Trailer/Boat parking, workshop, storage building, an additional lot with pens ready for animals, plus lots of yard space! 1 car attached garage and 2-car detached garage! Tons of storage and plenty of room! Close to the school or to the field for those Friday night lights!

Melinda McCutchen (325) 473-8863

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Jerrod Pitcock, Broker

www.pitcockproperties.com • (325) 650-4079 260 +/- ac Price Ranch Located just west of Robert Lee this ranch has a good combination of recreational land and productive grass land for livestock. It has good access from Hwy 158 and an access

1053 +/- ac This ranch is located in Schleicher County, between Mertzon and Eldorado, Texas. The property is in native pasture land with moderate brush cover. Property would serve well to run cattle,

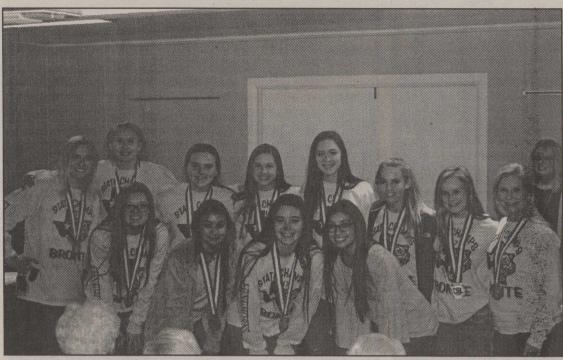
sheep or be used for hunting. 2353 +/- ac, This ranch is just over 3 sections and is located between Eldorado, TX and Mertzon, TX. This ranch is fenced and cross fenced and is well suited for a running livestock or a recreational hunting ranch. There is approximately 95 acres in cultivation and the remaining portion of the ranch is

in native pasture. Give us a call to schedule your showing

400 +/-ac, Located in Schleicher County, between Mertzon and Eldorado, Texas. The property is in native pasture land with moderate brush cover. Property would serve well to run cattle, sheep or be used

530 +/- ac, This 530 acre show place in Hamilton County, Texas, has unlimited potential. There is a lot of surface water with 7 lakes/ponds. There is a good combination of open pasture and brush cover for wildlife habitat. This is a great property within an 1.5 hour drive to the Metroplex.

CURRENT NEWS!



Lady Longhorns Honored! The Bronte Lady Longhorns Volleyball Team was honored Thursday night, December 14, 2017, by the Bronte City Council for winning the State Volleyball Championship.

Holiday office closures announced

Observer/Enterprise office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, January 1 and 2018.

The County Courthouse will be closed Monday, January 1, 2018.

The City of Bronte office will 2018.

The office for the City of Robert Lee will be closed Monday, January 1, 2018.

Red Hat Society to meet January 4

Enjoy the first meeting of 2018 with the Red Hat Society ladies. Join in with good food and friends at The Pie Pizzeria in Robert Lee at 11 am Thursday, January 4, 2018.

January 2 is first day to rent county buildings

The first day to rent the Robert Lee and Bronte Large Recreation Halls, Robert Lee and Bronte Senior Citizens Buildings, and the Robert Lee and Bronte Pavilions will be Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

The Coke County Judge's Office will be open at 7 am to begin taking rentals. For more information, please call Lorrie at (325) 453-2641.

Bronte Economic Development Corporation seeking individuals

Bronte Economic The Development Corporation is looking for individuals to serve as Board Members. The ideal candidates will have experience in business, tourism, and/or economic development, coupled with vision and commitment to our community's economic growth and prosperity.

The Bronte EDC also has a voluntary position available to provide assistance to the EDC President, Secretary and Treasurer. The individual must have experience taking minutes and finances.

If you would like to submit your name for consideration for a term appointment as a Board Member or are interested in becoming a volunteer please

contact City Hall before January 12 at (325) 473-3501.

Project Fair and Livestock Show set for January 18-20

The Coke County Project Fair and Livestock Show will be held January 18 through January 20, 2018, in Robert Lee. There are be closed Monday, January 1, several contests scheduled for the Project Fair, as well as new contests this year. The project categories include:

Photography - Photos must be 8x10 (mounted if desired but not required). Two entries per category allowed. Entry card must be filled out and attached to the back of each photo. All entries must be original photography of the person entering.

Art - Any size and categories will be determined by entries.

Re-Purpose Project (Trash to Treasure) - At least 50% should be from repurposed materials.

Lego/Model Crafts - Includes

models made from Legos, model airplanes and the like.

Crafts - Includes paper crafts, wood crafts, and decorative The possibilities are items. endless!

Quilting/Sewing/Knitting -Includes quilts, knitted scarves, anything that was sewn, knitted, or crocheted.

Canning - Can include products such as jellies, jams, salsa, or canned vegetable or

Kids Korner - For exhibitors who are in pre-school through 2nd grade. Can include any of the categories or anything made by the exhibitor.

There is also a Pies, Cookies, and Cakes Contest. All pies must be in a disposable pie pan to attach to the entry form, along with the recipe. Exhibitors may also submit one dozen cookies on a disposable plate. The recipe must be attached to the entry form. Cakes must be in/on a

and cakes will be used as desserts during the Buyer's BBQ.

Age divisions for the contests are as follows:

Kids Korner - Pre-school through 2nd Grade;

Junior - 3rd grade through 5th grade;

Intermediate - 6th grade through 8th grade;

Senior - 9th through 12th

Adults - 19 years old and up. Entries will be taken at the Rec Hall in Robert Lee on Wednesday, January 17 between at (325) 453-2461.

disposable pan/plate. The pies 12 pm and 6:30 pm. They will continue to be taken on Thursday, January 18 beginning at 8 am. All entries must be received by noon on January 18. Judging will take place Thursday and Friday before the Stock Show. Entry forms will be available at the Rec Hall in Robert Lee. If you would like to drop them off early, please make arrangements with Extension Office.

> For more information, contact Kandice Everitt or Morgan Runyan at the Extension Office



HMUINK

2015 Ford F-150 XLT 4WD White w/Gray Cloth Seats! 5.0L V8 Engine! Superb Coondition! Only 25K Miles!

2013 Ford Expedition EL King Ranch \$23,995 White w/Java Leather Seats! Navigation, Sunroof, Rear Bucket Seats! 83K Miles! Super Clean Ride!

2015 Ford Explorer Limited Ruby Red w/Black Leather! Navigation! 85K Miles! Great Condition!

#6925M **\$21.995** 2013 Ford F-150 XLT 4WD White w/Gray Cloth Seats! 3.5L V6 Ecoboost Engine! Headache Rack & Bedliner! 87K Miles!

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Good Looking Truck

98K Miles! Good Looking Truck! 2008 Ford F-150 XLT Red w/Tan Cloth Seats! 4x2! 141K Miles!

#6934A \$14,295

#5237 \$ 9,995

2013 Ford Fusion SE Black w/Black Cloth Seats! 87K Miles

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Cole Flanagan • Buddy Wallace • Kagan Maxcey



70th Anniversary Celebration! The Bronte Sorosis Study Club celebrated its Seventieth Anniversary on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at the Bronte First United Methodist Church.



Walk Across Texas! Six teams, consisting of 46 individuals, recently completed the Walk Across Texas program hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Coke County. Over the course of an 8 week period, teams competed against each other to see who could walk the most miles across Texas. Collectively, these 46 people walked 17,620.13 miles and lost 36.8 pounds. Congratulations to all who made this a very successful program.

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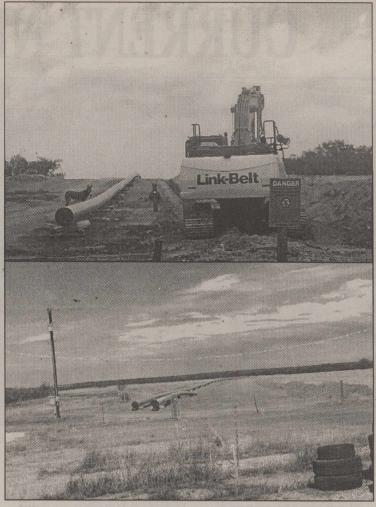
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What in the World?! That is the question these donkeys seem to have as they venture over to look at the large machine digging a trench for the recently completed pipeline through Coke County. You would have thought they would have waited for the machine to stop running before getting that close. Curiosity could have killed something bigger than a cat if they'd gotten much closer! The pipeline which runs across the county from the west to the southeast will provide a much needed boost in tax revenues to local coffers.

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MONDAY MEN'S NIGHT

Walk In, Get a Hair Cut!

3:30 pm - 7 pm

• Men Only Please •

10% off all services for new clients both women and men!

Shear Heaven Salon & Gifts

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