

...Bronte Council meetings minutes

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Clabe F. Webb reported on the depot and said that he has contacted the Grand Lodge and sent out photos to see if any of the lodges are interested in the items in the depot. Clabe F. Webb delivered a file cabinet to a lodge in Odessa. Information was given about pictures and he will contact the historical society to get further information on what to do with them. He reported that the next step will be to get someone in to clean.

Ricky Royall reported that one solar panel permit was approved and one permit was rejected.

The mayor discussed with the council the possible need to charge more for cemetery plots and that there are only about ten plots available to sell. It may be needed to look at more land. Mayor Pro Tem Gwen Dyess asked about the two acres of the pea patch and the mayor responded that the sewer line runs down the middle. Ricky Royall mentioned that the city may be able to close north and

south roads to create more plots. No action was taken.

Kinley Pritchard made the motion to approve the budget fiscal year 2021-2022 for EDC 4A and 4B as presented. Clabe F. Webb seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0.

Teresa Ballard reported a correction made on the depot regarding all Masonic related items. Gwen Dyess made the motion to approve the August 2, August 19, and September 7 minutes and was seconded by Clabe F. Webb. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0.

Clabe F. Webb made the motion to approve the June 2021 financials and the August 2021 Aging Report and was seconded by Kinley Pritchard. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Gohman stated that there is a state mandate to purchase three generators, with the cost of \$500,000 with unfunded funds. The government mandated this after the storms last winter. The city is looking into that with the

state. The state declared a disaster from 2020, which included Coke County. The city will be looking into grants and FEMA funding. The water plant is still ongoing with no current news to report. Deed paperwork related to the pea patch is moving forward.

City Secretary's Report

Teresa Ballard reported the letter of engagement for Fullerton CPA is ready for the mayor's signature. It was announced that La Esperanza Clinic will be coming to Bronte monthly starting this month and just to be aware if citizens ask about it. They will be set up at the Church of Christ and ask for appointments to be made if possible. They will accept insurance and those without insurance. City staff helped the fire department with getting a donation letter to all citizens. There is still time to nominate someone for the appraisal board. She also announced that utility e-payments is up and running.

There being no further business, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:10 pm.

Historical Commission website.

Social distancing and wearing a mask when inside buildings or when gathered with others is encouraged. Local and statewide limitations and restrictions may apply, these can change rapidly and may force an event to cancel or be modified. Please call the park directly or check social media for updates before visiting.

Photos of past holiday events are available on the TPWD Flickr page.

Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine is also offering a special subscription deal for the holidays. Buy a gift subscription for just \$10. Don't want to feel left out? Give yourself the gift of the outdoors! Subscriptions can be ordered online at <https://tpwmagazine.com/specialoffers/>.

Last of Their Kind

By Rhonda Reinhart

After long days listening to shots ring out across the Texas Panhandle plains, Mary Ann Goodnight would lie awake, tormented by the cries of orphaned bison calves. It was the late 1870s, and professional hide hunters were obliterating the country's bison population.

Known as the "great slaughter," hunting from 1874 to 1878 left the iconic animals nearly extinct, with estimates from 1888 suggesting that fewer than 1,000 bison remained in North America - down from the 30 million - 60 million that once roamed the continent.

But it was the wails of those abandoned calves bawling for their mothers night after night - heartbreaking sounds that Goodnight described in diary entries from the time - that spurred her to act in 1878. The wife of cattleman Charles Goodnight, the famed Texas Panhandle rancher, pleaded with her husband to rescue what he

could of the surviving bison.

The couple had settled in Palo Duro Canyon in 1876, and within two years, hunters had nearly wiped out the animals. That's when Mary Ann Goodnight persuaded her husband to capture some of the orphaned calves and start a herd on their JA Ranch. The Goodnight bison herd prospered and grew to more than 200 animals by the 1920s. After the Goodnights' deaths (Mary Ann in 1926, Charles in 1929), the bison continued to roam the vast and rugged landscape of the JA Ranch. Though Charles Goodnight sold his interest in the JA operation in the late 1880s and started a new ranch on nearby land, the bison ultimately migrated back to their original home.

Left on its own, the herd dwindled, and by 1994, only about 50 animals remained. When the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department learned about the declining herd in the mid-1990s from an unlikely source - Wolfgang Frey, a German wildlife conservationist with a particular interest in American bison - the agency conducted DNA testing on the bovines, revealing genetic markers not found in any other bison. Because Goodnight never brought in any bison from other areas and kept detailed records to prove it, all the animals in his herd were native Texas Panhandle bison. These animals, direct descendants of the herd started by Goodnight, were the last surviving examples of southern Plains bison.

Convinced that the historic herd was worth saving, the owners of the JA Ranch donated the bison to TPWD, and in 1997 they were relocated to Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway in Briscoe County, about 100 miles southeast of Amarillo, on land that is part of the bison's native home range.

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Greet the holiday season at a Texas State Park, THC Historic Site

Texas State Parks and the Texas Historical Commission are hosting their biggest holiday season yet with more than 80 unique holiday events happening across the state. As of Saturday, November 20, 47 Texas State Parks and eight State Historic Sites are presenting themed guided walks, scavenger hunts and more.

Anyone planning a trip to a Texas State Park is highly encouraged to reserve their day pass in advance since some parks are expected to reach their capacity limit. Day passes can be reserved online through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) website or over the phone by calling (512) 389-8900.

Visitors can opt to go outside this Thanksgiving and Black Friday for two guided walks at Bastrop and Buescher State Park. The first hike will be a Turkey Trot Sunrise Hike at Buescher State Park on November 25. This ranger-led hike will run from 7 am - 8 am at the scenic overlook and is guaranteed to help you make room for a delicious Thanksgiving meal. On November 26, Bastrop State Park is hosting their Gobble Till You Wobble Backcountry hike from 11 am - 2 pm. This ranger-led hike will trek through areas not often seen by the public. Visitors are encouraged to bring some Thanksgiving leftovers for a mid-hike picnic by the creek.

Anyone visiting Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site December 11 - 23 can grab a self-guided tour packet, walk the grounds for free and learn about how Christmas was celebrated in north Texas

during the 1890s (when Dwight Eisenhower was born) and 1940s (when the Denison community preserved the Birthplace house). Children's craft kits will be available while supplies last. For more information, call (903) 465-8908.

In South Texas, families can pick a spot in the day use area of Falcon State Park to view the Third Annual Falcon Lake Christmas Boat Parade from 7 pm - 10 pm, Saturday, December 11. Visitors will be able to see decked out boats float by in cheerful holiday lights.

Celebrate Boxing Day and stretch your legs at 9 am, December 26 at Franklin Mountains State Park with an easy 1.5-mile hike to Agave Loop. Visitors should bring good hiking shoes, plenty of water

and a Santa hat.

Skip the store lines and get outside at Galveston Island State Park for a Black Friday Paddle November 26 from 8am - 10:30 am. Regular entrance fees apply. For more information, call 409-737-1222.

The grounds of Kreische Brewery and Monument Hill State Historic Sites are being transformed with holiday lights during the evenings from 5:30 pm - 8 pm, December 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18. Guests will be able to enjoy the walking trail with holiday lights, live entertainment, refreshments, family activities and visit with Santa.

For more information about these and other holiday activities at Texas State Parks, visit the TPWD website. A full calendar is available online on the TPWD calendar page. For more activities at THC's State Historic Sites, visit the Texas



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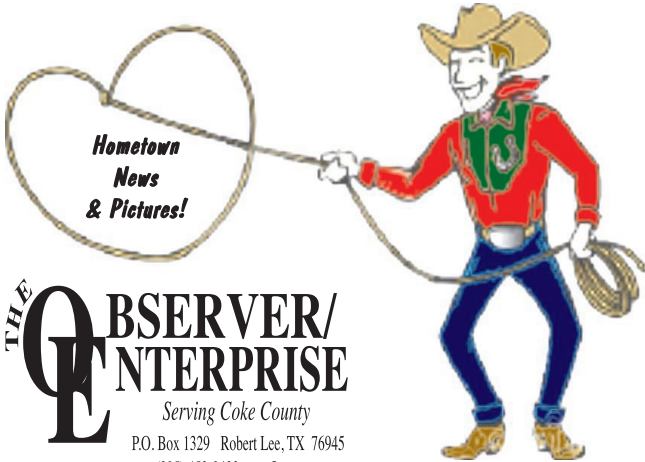
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