

**Two Lady Horns named to All State team**

Stacia Emfinger and Crystal Bilbrey were named this week to the TGCA Division 1A All State Volleyball Team. The members of the Lady Longhorns are coached by Robynn Jones.

**Letter to the Editor**

Dear Editor,  
I would like to respond to the young person's article last week concerning a potential "reduction in force" at the Bronte ISD. I applaud their concern and loyalty for staff at the school.

The school is the single most important entity in any small town. In many ways, it is the definition of who we are, in addition to being a primary employer. The school plays a large part in how folks outside of town perceive us. The Bronte ISD represents us all very well in all areas.

As most of you know, I served on the Board of Trustees for six years at the Bronte ISD, and for two of those years, I served as the Board President. Since the closing of the prison some years ago, the Bronte ISD has been over-staffed as compared to similar schools around the area, and for the number of students we have. The school also has operated since that time on a 'deficit' budget, meaning that we were spending money out of the school's "fund balance" (savings account) to maintain the current level of employment and spending. For the entire time I served on the Board, we discussed this prolific spending

program. The largest portion of any school's spending is on staff, and during that time we were able to lower the total number of staff but not to the degree that was necessary to balance the budget. However, I personally failed each of you for not being able to convince the balance of the Board and the former Administration how important it was to balance the budget to the actual revenue that comes in from all sources each year.

Please be aware that your school's finances are in great shape. Bronte has one of the lowest tax rates in the area. It has no debt. Its facilities are fantastic. The fund balance is at a level that provides the Bronte ISD with adequate 'rainy day' monies that can be used to offset unexpected expenditures in the future. But, we are now to the point where we can no longer use money out of our fund balance to balance the budget.

The only way that your current Board can balance its budget is by lowering the total number of employees at the school. Even if the Board voted for a 'tax rollback' election and the voters of the Bronte ISD approved a tax increase to the maximum level allowed by the State of Texas, these additional funds would not be sufficient to continue at our current spending levels.

Let me remind each of you that it is my opinion that governments are not in the business of creating jobs. They should only provide the essential services that are approved by the taxpayers and voters. Governments should be constrained in their taxing and spending by the voters.

I support my Board of Trustees and Administration at the Bronte ISD. They have such a difficult job to do. May God



**Teens in the Driver's Seat!**  
Bronte High School's Teens-in-the-Driver's Seat group was busy through the months of October and November raising awareness to teens and the community about safe driving and focusing on buckling up. Remember 1.5 seconds (what it takes to buckle up) can make a difference in saving your life. This group hopes to win for the 6th year in a row outstanding high school in Texas for promoting safe driving.

bless their efforts and should there be a reduction in force may God bless each person that is affected by it.

This is such a great place to live and I pray that Bronte will prosper in the future.

Thanks,  
Paul Williams

**School Menu**

**Breakfast**

**Monday, December 15**  
Cinnamon roll or cereal, toast/jelly, fruit, juice, milk

**Tuesday, December 16**  
Pancake on stick or cereal, toast/jelly, fruit, juice, milk

**Wednesday, December 17**  
Breakfast pizza or cereal, toast/jelly, fruit, juice, milk

**Thursday, December 18**  
Sausage & biscuit or cereal, toast/jelly, fruit, juice, milk

**Friday, December 19**  
Cherry strudel or cereal, toast/jelly, fruit, juice, milk

**Lunch**

**Monday, December 15**  
Pizza sticks, spaghetti sauce, seasoned corn, baby carrots, apple slices, milk

**Tuesday, December 16**  
Longhorn chicken bowl, gravy, apple-pineapple, rolls, milk

**Wednesday, December 17**  
BBQ on bun, coleslaw, pinto beans, baby carrots, orange smiles, milk

**Thursday, December 18**  
Baked potato w/chili & cheese, garden salad, rolls, green beans, fruit, milk

**Friday, December 19**  
Pizza, garden salad, vegetable cup, mixed fruit, milk

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