

# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

*Serving Coke County*



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Friday, December 16, 2016

## 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.

## Christmas Concert slated

The Bronte High School Concert Band will be performing their annual Christmas Concert Thursday evening, December 15, at 7 pm. The concert will be held at the school auditorium.

This band was rated Superior by the Texas UIL in marching this year. They also brought home trophies for best in class

woodwinds, percussion and drum major.

The band has put a lot of effort into preparing this Christmas music show for their community. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

## January 3 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 3, 2017. 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.

## 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.

## Council meeting draws crowd

A crowd of over fifty concerned citizens braved the cold to crowd into the Bronte City Council Chambers, flowing into the attached fire hall.

The meeting began at 8 pm with the Bronte Lady Longhorn



**Grant Awarded!** *The Restoring Bronte Foundation received a check in the amount of \$62,350 from Abilene's Dodge Jones Foundation. This, when combined with the funds raised and the grant from the San Angelo Health Foundation, will allow RBF to purchase the above playground equipment. RBF directors are hopeful the equipment will be installed and ready for children to enjoy by next summer.*

Volleyball team being honored with a proclamation. At 8:09 pm, the council retreated into the City Secretary's office to consult with the attorney for the city council in executive session.

The group of citizens waited patiently for over an hour for the council to return from Executive Session. Upon their return, George Tomes made the following motion.

"I make a motion that the City of Bronte terminate the Land Lease Agreement dated April 14, 2016, between the City of Bronte, as lessor, and Ronny Loyd, as lessee, for the City of Bronte's 6.846 acre tract out of the D.L. Laughlin Survey #9, Coke County, Texas, and 11.523 acre tract out of the Seforiano

DeLaGarza Survey #304, the A.E. Gotcher Survey #1, the J.E. Henry Survey #1 and the D.L. Laughlin Survey #9, Coke County, Texas, because it is in violation of Section 272.001 of the Local Government Code."

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Tomes made a second motion as follows.

"I make a motion that the City of Bronte give its attorney, Nick Arrott, and his law firm full authority, on behalf of the City of Bronte, to renegotiate a true lease with Ronny Loyd, as lessee, for the City of Bronte's 6.846 acre tract out of the D.L. Laughlin Survey #9, Coke County, Texas, and 11.523 acre tract out of the Seforiano DeLaGarza Survey #304, the A.E. Gotcher Survey #1, the J.E. Henry Survey #1 and the D.L. Laughlin Survey #9, Coke County, Texas, with terms that are valid under the applicable laws, for fair market value based on an independent unbiased appraisal, and subject to the approval of the city council at an upcoming city council open meeting."

This motion was seconded and passed with only Wade Stautzenberger opposing.

Several in the group of citizens were displeased with the second motion. Tomes made clear to the citizens that attorney to the city council Nick Arrott had nothing to do with the April 14th lease until after it had been signed and was in effect.

Bronte businessman Paul Knight asked Council member Martin Lee what his plans were for this property. Lee said that he had never talked to Ronny Loyd. He further stressed the positive

impact he's (Lee) had on the city over the years. He said he did not know anything about Ronny Loyd.

The proposal Loyd presented at the April 14, 2016, meeting included four bed and breakfasts. Lee said "we were talking to Garland Richards". It was mentioned how the bed and breakfasts would benefit the fort and there was the possibility of a well providing water for the fort. Lee said that originally, the land was never to be sold or leased, but to develop the underground water and put water facilities on the property.

Lee went on to say how he had visited with Nick Arrott prior to the April 14th meeting and the signing of the lease and that Arrott didn't say they couldn't sign it.

Council member Misti Bedford corrected Lee and said Arrott had never been given the opportunity to review the lease before it was signed.

The council was asked how this agreement with Loyd would benefit Bronte. It was understood that it might possibly benefit Fort Chadbourne. Lee mentioned that the Bronte Economic Development Corporation had given three grants to Fort Chadbourne, but Knight, a member of Bronte EDC, argued that the EDC money was not Bronte taxpayer funds. He stated that it was not Bronte citizens' responsibility to fund this project.

Knight brought up the verbal agreement some council members had with Loyd to demolish 27 dilapidated houses in return for the salvaged lumber and fixtures. He questioned why, if the agreement was made last April, there had not been more progress

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**City Council Meeting!** *Over fifty concerned citizens surround the council table at the Bronte City Council meeting Thursday evening, December 8, 2016, as the controversial Oak Creek Lake lease was discussed.*