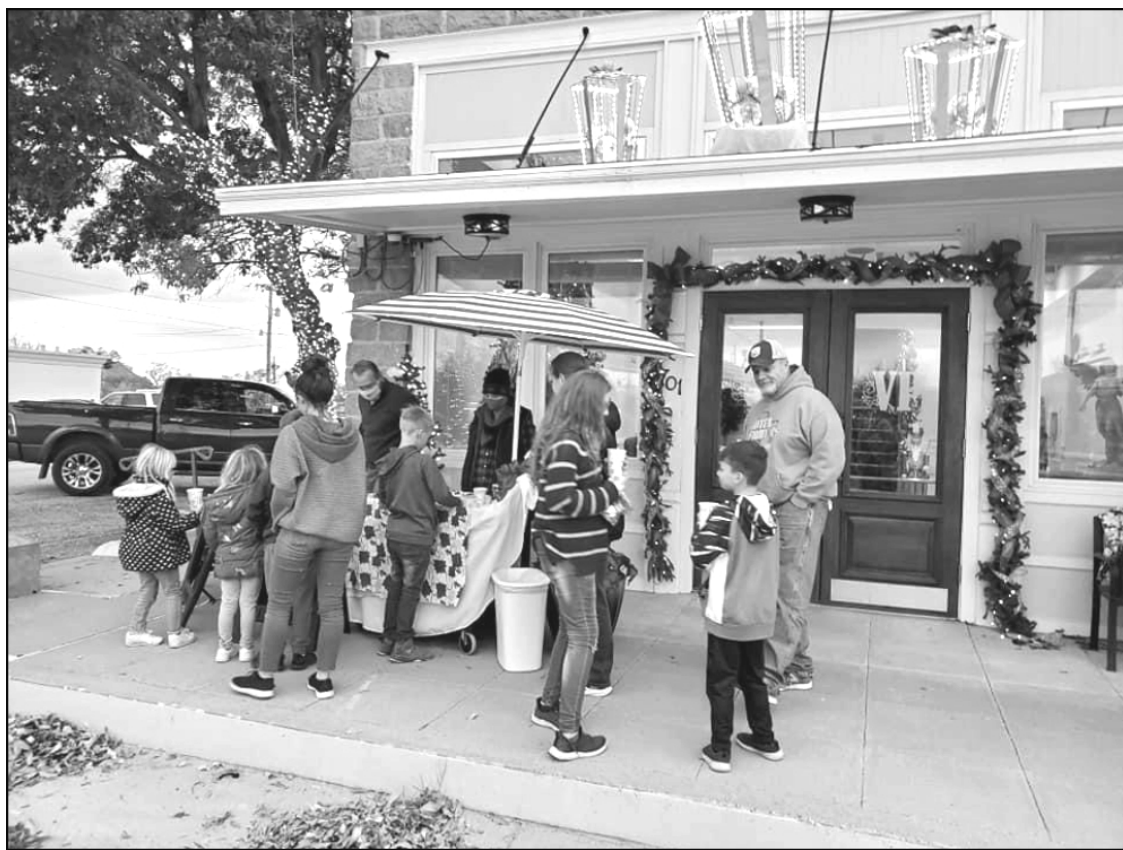




Calvin Claus



A Different Kind of Holiday! Calvin Claus (left) was Santa's stand-in for the children of Bronte this year. When Calvin and Christine McCutchen heard that Christmas in Olde Bronte was cancelled, they stepped up and Calvin became Calvin Claus!

Holiday Lights! Robert Lee's Vision with a Purpose came to together to light up downtown Robert Lee for Small Town Christmas.

Defense issued a warning that the company's hardware could pose a cyber-espionage risk.

Motorola, a well-known smartphone maker, is owned by a Chinese state-sponsored company. While the brand connotes a U.S. image, there is little difference between Motorola's phones and those made by Huawei, another of China's state-operated companies that has been blacklisted by the U.S. government because of its ties to the country's military.

Other examples include Riot Games, now owned by Chinese holding company Tencent and Ingram Micro, which distributes Apple's iPhone and Cisco network equipment and is now owned by China's HNA Group.

China's ambition to control the market for modern technologies is well known. In an attempt to build its capabilities and market share, the Chinese government — through quasi state-operated companies — has quietly bought its way into the U.S. market. This power grab has happened by takeovers of American companies and the theft of U.S. technology.

For its part, the U.S. government has begun to crack

down on bad actors. In recent years, it has added more than 320 suspect Chinese companies, like Huawei, to its "Entity List," which prevents American companies from engaging in trade with those named. But there are loopholes that need to be closed. That will require greater restrictions on China's state-operated companies in the immediate-term, and expanding rules that prevent foreign companies from buying control of American businesses. It is also important that consumers protect themselves by sharing information about companies that might paint themselves as proudly American, but, in reality, are sneaking in the backdoor.

Fortunately, Americans have more choices when it comes to affordable, high-quality electronics, and companies are diversifying away from China for safety and security reasons. For the integrity of our personal data, and the continued success of our technology industry, it is critical that we buy products that are truly American-made — and not wolves in sheep's clothing.

[Editor's Note: This article, written by Roslyn Layton, originally appeared in Insider Sources.]