

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County



(USPS 467-480)
(ISSN 8750-197X)

Vol. 127, No. 22

Friday, December 5, 2014

RL Open House celebrations slated for Today, December 5

The opening of the Christmas season in Robert Lee is Friday, December 5. A number of local offices and businesses hold open house to serve refreshments and celebrate the season with their valued customers and friends.

The Coke County Courthouse will have an open house from 8 am to 1 pm. Robert Lee State Bank is having their open house from 9 am to 3 pm and Ivey Motor Company, Inc., will celebrate from 11 am to 2 pm.

Other businesses and offices participating with open house celebrations include Robert Lee City Hall, Floyd C. Pettit Insurance, Coke County Hardware, B's Blossoms and Blooms, DJ's Merle Norman and Especially For You, Coke-Sterling Farm Bureau, and This 'N That Shop.

Robert Lee's Small Town Christmas set for Saturday

A Small Town Christmas celebration will be held in Robert Lee on Saturday, December 6, starting at 4:30 pm with Stew and Cornbread. Santa will arrive at 5:30 and the Memorial Park Christmas Lighting will be held at 6:30 pm.

Christmas Greetings deadline set for December 11

It is time once again for Christmas greetings! The Observer/Enterprise would like to remind businesses and individuals wishing to place a Christmas greeting in the newspaper to call or stop by and choose your greeting for the December 19 issue.

Deadline for this year's greetings is Thursday, December 11, at 12 noon. For more information or to place your greeting, contact the O/E office at 453-2433.

Santa Letter deadline set for December 11

Deadline for Letters to Santa Claus to be printed in this year's Christmas edition has been set for Thursday, December 11. As in the past, we will go by the schools and pick up their Letters for Santa for inclusion in the Christmas paper on December 19. We will forward these letters straight to Santa after we get through typing them up for the paper. This is why we have to have them early.

As in the case of Letters to Santa which are delivered to the post office, we will pick them up, type them for the paper, and mail

them on to Santa as fast as we can.

Christmas in Olde Bronte set for December 13

GET READY to help bring in the Christmas season on Saturday, December 13th with a host of fun activities in Bronte!

"Christmas in Olde Bronte" will begin with a "Jingle Bell Fun Run" and at 9:00, shops, arts, and food booths open all along Main Street and Hwy 277. Many merchants are planning special events all day long, and are looking forward to shoppers. For the first time this century, Santa will arrive on horseback at 1:00 at the General Store for visiting with children and to take photos. At the same time, just down the street at the Big Game Studio, Mrs. Claus will have hot cocoa and storytelling for children of all ages.

In the true spirit of Grinch's "Whoville," a "Whobilation Celebration" will kick off at 5:00 with the first annual "Ugliest Christmas Sweater" contest at the Texas Theatre. Categories will be in three age groups: Kids 0-10; Tweens/Teens ages 11-18; and Grown Ups ages 19-110, with grand prize gift certificates of \$50 to winners in each category, and \$25 to the runners up! The sweaters will be judged at the theatre at 5:00, with the winners to be announced shortly after 6:00. Start getting those sweaters ready NOW, and join the fun!!

The day will conclude with the showing of the fun movie, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" at 6:30 at the Texas Theatre. And, for the first time in decades, the theatre will host a double feature for the weekend with the showing of "The Nativity Story" on Sunday evening, December 14th, also at 6:30. There will be no charge for these movies, as they are being brought to the public through the generosity of Luis Charles, Glenn-Bivins Insurance, and Larry's Automotive.

Sidewalk Sale postponed

The Coke County Quilters Club has postponed the Bronte Sidewalk Sale. The sale will be announced and held early in 2015. Please watch for the announcement in *The Observer/Enterprise*.

Sorosis Club Bake Sale set for December 13

The Sorosis Study Club in Bronte will be having a Bake Sale on Saturday, December 13th beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the front of the Grocery Store. The possibility of sweets for the hunters along with being a part of Christmas In Olde Bronte.

Coke County *Christmas* Season Activities

Friday, December 5

**Christmas Open Houses
Downtown Robert Lee**

Saturday, December 6

**A Small Town Christmas
Downtown Robert Lee**

Saturday, December 13

**Christmas in Olde Bronte
Downtown Bronte**

Red Hat Society to meet

The Red Hat Society will meet at 11 am December 4th at Stripes in Bronte.

You are welcome to join this group where there is fun after fifty (and before) for women of all walks of life. It's a fun group with no rules and no business, but lots of fun, food and fellowship.

Ladies under fifty usually wear something lavender with a pink hat. Over fifty ladies wear something purple with a red hat. Don't have a hat? Come join the group anyway.

Angel Tree donations needed

An Angel Tree will be set up at DJ's Merle Norman in Robert Lee, beginning December 1.

If you would like to sponsor a child in need this Christmas, please stop in. All gifts need to be wrapped and received by December 18.

Mountain Creek to hold meeting

The annual membership meeting for Mountain Creek Golf Course will be held Saturday, December 13, 2014, at 1 pm. With the resignation announcements of Darin Clawson, Ricky Ross, and David Bautista, and the expirations of the terms of Scotty Jackson, Clay Allen and Brent Terry (all of whom are not seeking re-election), participation at

this meeting is very important. The meeting will be held in the clubhouse at the golf course.

The Dragon's Not Gone, Just Asleep.

By Mark Sides, RLVFD

The Robert Lee VFD will host an open house at the fire station on December 15th at 7 pm. Come visit us and enjoy a chili-dog or three.

On a more serious note, Wildcat, Dos Amigos, and Whitehat became household names in Coke County during 2011. Wildcat, Rockhouse, Deaton-Cole, Possum Kingdom and others made national headlines.

Long range forecasts predict another spring and summer almost identical to what Coke County and Texas in general, saw in 2011. Above average temperatures, large amounts of dry fuels, low relative humidity, and strong winds could again set the stage where a careless spark, a lightning strike, or an arcing power line are the opening number in a Texas Firestorm.

Robert Lee, Bronte and outlying communities are no different from other rural Texas towns where rangeland, pastures, and CRP may be near or immediately adjacent to homes and businesses.

These are a few simple items that will reduce the chances of your home going up in smoke:

1) Routinely clean gutters,

especially in the fall. Keep your yard clean of leaves, limbs, and dead grass.

2) Remove tree limbs that extend over the eaves of the roof or within 10-15 feet of the chimney

3) Keep your grass mowed to a 4" height or less, and if possible, well watered during periods of extreme drought. Prune tree branches at least 10 feet from the ground.

4) Landscape using deciduous trees and shrubs such as oaks, agarito, eastern redbud, desert willow, and sages. Avoid junipers, pines, and other evergreens unless they are planted 100 feet or further from the house.

5) Make sure your house number and street number are clearly posted to provide firefighters easy identification.

6) Maintain at least 30 feet of open space between your home and the surrounding brush line or CRP field.

7) Avoid concentrations of shrubbery or ornamental grasses up against the house.

8) Have garden hoses connected at all times and long enough to reach around the house.

9) Store firewood at least 15 to 30 feet away from the house.

10) Maintain roads and entrances to provide easy access
(Continued on Page 7)