

# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County



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Friday, December 9, 2016

## Town Hall Meeting draws significant crowd of concerned citizens

A Community Town Hall Meeting was held at Addona's restaurant Monday evening, December 5, 2016. The purpose of the 7:30 pm meeting, attended by over fifty local residents, was to shed light on a lease awarded by the City of Bronte to Ronny Loyd near Oak Creek Lake.

The meeting opened with an opening statement by Nicholas Arrott II, attorney for the City of Bronte. He explained that Public Open Meeting statutes would not allow members of the council to attend the meeting. He also stated that he had advised the members of the council to not attend the meeting.

The City of Bronte has asked that the following statement be included. "On advice from the City Attorney, City Council members and City employees cannot comment on the lease agreement issue until the conclusion of that review. This information will be made available to the public when the review is concluded."

Arrott went on to explain that unlike a county attorney or district attorney which are elected

positions, as attorney to the City of Bronte, his attorney/client relationship was with the elected members of the council, including the mayor.

Bronte businessman Paul Knight, owner of Bronte Body Shop, took over the facilitation of the meeting once Arrott's statement was concluded. He explained what he knew of the situation.

According to a warranty deed recorded December 8, 2015, the City of Bronte purchased 90.269 acres from the City of Sweetwater. Although the deed does not reveal the purchase price, officials have said it was sold at \$1,300 per acre.

The City of Bronte requested bids through public notice for 71,900 of these acres to be sold with the City of Bronte retaining the water rights. A quorum of the Bronte City Council voted at the April 14, 2016, meeting to give authority to Mayor Gerald Sandusky to lease the remaining 18,369 acres to Ronny Loyd, 432 Lake Dam Road, Blackwell, Texas. Misti Bedford and Jodie Arrott were not present at this meeting. Voting for this lease were council



members Martin Lee, Wade Stautzenberger and Paul "Buzz" Gohman. Mr. Arrott did not draw up the lease, nor did he have the opportunity to review the lease before it was signed.

The lease for the 18,369 acres, signed and executed on April 18, 2016, totaled \$1 per year for 99 years. It renews automatically for additional 99 year terms at the same amount. There is no penalty for pre-payment. The lease also allows Mr. Loyd to pass this lease onto his heirs at the time of his death.

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death.

### Christmas Greetings deadline is December 12

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 23rd issue.

Deadline for this year's greetings is Monday, December 12th at 12 noon. For more information or to place your greeting, contact the O/E office at 453-2433 or 473-8863.

The O/E office will be closed the week of December 26-30 and the annual Year in Review issue will be published Friday, December 30, 2016.

### Santa Letter Deadline set for December 13

Deadline for the Letters to Santa Claus to be printed in this year's Christmas edition has been set for Tuesday, December 13th, at 12 noon. 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 23rd. 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 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.



**Robert Lee Small Town Christmas!** Vision With A Purpose held its Christmas Open House, along with other businesses, in downtown Robert Lee on Friday, December 2, at their Austin Street headquarters. The building is under renovation, so those visiting the building could see the progress. Nancy Wilson of VP decorated inside and out for Christmas. Cupcakes and coffee were served.

Despite the weather, VP put on their usual spectacular Small Town Christmas, Saturday, December 3, at the gazebo and Memorial Park. The rain let up so Santa could find his way by fire truck to the gazebo at 4 pm to meet and greet children who told him their Christmas wishes. Food was served in the VP headquarters. Homemade stew, chili, cornbread, and gingerbread men were on the menu.

Renee Smith and her committee put in a lot of time decorating Memorial Park and the gazebo area, which was spectacular. The hayrides had to be cancelled because of the rain. All in all, despite the weather, it was a very successful evening.

Robert Lee residents and businesses are encouraged to enter the outdoor decorating contest. Applications are available at This 'n That Shop, Coke County Hardware and Floyd Pettit Ins. Co. Deadline for applications is December 10. Awards of \$100, \$75 and \$50 will be given. Also, a "Griswald Lights UP" (Christmas Story) has been added this year. Winners will be announced December 20.

Coke County

# Christmas

Season Activities

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**Saturday, December 17**  
**Christmas in Olde Bronte**  
**Downtown Bronte**