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Resolution approved by Commissioners requesting changes on US Highway 277

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Coke County Commissioners voted Tuesday, February 24, 2015, on a resolution to lower the speed limit on US Highway 277 for the three mile stretch from Bronte in each direction (both north toward Abilene and south toward San Angelo). The resolution also addresses the safety signage, or lack thereof, on the curves on this section of roadway.

Coke County Commissioners, along with the City of Bronte, have no power to make any changes along this federal roadway. However, they may send this resolution as a request to Texas Department of Transportation. The process begins with the TxDOT District Engineer in San Angelo and will make its way to TxDOT's governing board in Austin. It will be this board's decision to make any changes to safety features or speed limits.

Several East Coke County

citizens were in attendance for the Commissioners meeting due to this resolution. In their discussion with the Court, it was noted that an increased law enforcement presence was needed in this area. They agreed that the Sheriff's Office and the Precinct 2 Constable were very active, but noted the absence of a Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper for extended periods. Coke County Judge Roy Blair explained that Coke County only had a Trooper for a couple of weeks each month and that soon she will be transferring. Sheriff Wayne McCutchen reported that there has not been a time set for a replacement Trooper to be stationed in Coke County.

The complete resolution is listed below.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Coke County Commissioners Court met in open session this 24th day of February, 2015 in the Coke County Courthouse in

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Happy Birthday! It was a double celebration for little Morgan Holland as the spectators and competitors at last Saturday's Special Olympics event in Bronte sang "Happy Birthday" to her in honor of her 5th birthday. Morgan, accompanied by Coke County Sheriff Wayne McCutchen and Becky Puentez, was the final torch bearer to conclude this year's Opening Ceremonies.

East Side Burn Pile addressed at Commissioners Court

Coke County Precinct 2 Commissioner Paul Williams requested approval from Commissioners Court Tuesday to spend up to \$5,000 to clean up the burn pile at the back of the County Park in Bronte.

He explained to the Court that the burn pile was a violation of Texas state law (Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 365). Not only were the people who used the site breaking the law, but also the Court for allowing the dumping.

In order to come into compliance with state law and avoid the large fines associated with violations, the site has been closed and will be cleaned up.

Commissioner Williams explained further that the gate blocking access to the site is temporary. Public access for recreation on the south side of Lake Kneirim will not be permanently restricted.

Local Government Entity election filing period ends today

Filing for a place on the ballot in the May 9, 2015, local government entity election ends today Friday, February 27, 2015. Potential candidates may pick up and return an application at the entity for which they are filing.

The City of Robert Lee has three 2 year terms to fill. The terms of council members Janie Munoz, Leroy Casey and Susan McCormick are expiring. Also, Mayor John Jacobs has announced that he will resign in May. The remainder of his term will be on the ballot. As of presstime, Leroy Casey has filed for the unexpired term for mayor. Janie Munoz has filed for re-election to the council and will be joined on the ballot by Roger Alexander and Toni Rainwater.

The City of Bronte will need to fill three seats currently held by Misti Bedford, Paula McWright and Jodie Arrott. As of presstime, Paula McWright

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Winter Weather! Coke County received another dose of winter weather earlier this week in the form of ice. The 80 degree days of last week abruptly gave way to much colder temperatures on Sunday when temperatures dropped into the twenties on Sunday evening. Temperatures remained in the twenties until mid-morning on Tuesday. The above scene was approximately 4 miles north of Bronte on US Highway 277. Photo Courtesy of Susan Williams