



Donations! As a result of the success of the first annual Bronte Turkey 'N Hogfest, donations were given to a couple of Bronte groups, with Denise Gallaway presenting the checks. Bronte Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Martin DeLaGarza (top left photo) received the check for \$11,000 for the fire department to help maintain equipment and continue work on the fire station. Additionally, Coke County Cowboy Church Pastor James Brunson received the check for a total of \$1,900 to help sponsor their youth camp and to help provide flooring for their youth building;

First Annual Bronte Turkey 'N Hogfest deemed successful

The first annual Bronte Turkey 'N Hogfest financial results are in, and the Chairmen are happy to "strut" the news!

The festivities brought in over \$26,000 in total revenue, and after expenses are deducted, will be distributing over

\$20,000 to benefit local entities. Revenue was generated via meal tickets, t-shirt sales, sponsorships, and vendor rental, with larger amounts being raised during the live and silent auctions. The auctions for the opportunity to hunt with the celebrity hunters were a big hit -

each celebrity donated one half of the amount raised to their "favorite charity," with the remaining half being given to the Bronte Volunteer Fire Department and the Restoring Bronte Foundation's Downtown Development fund. It was interesting to watch the professional hunters and their crews "fall in love with Bronte" during their time in town and on area ranches, and consequently donate the bulk of the monies raised to our local causes!

As a result of the generosity of

hunters and auction donors and the great relationships that developed during the event, the bulk of the auctions' proceeds were designated to either the Bronte Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) or the RBF-Downtown Development fund. Accordingly, the BVFD will receive \$11,000 to help maintain equipment and continue work on the Fire Station, and the RBF-Downtown will receive \$7,400 to use to help repair downtown sidewalks and add handicap

access. Additionally, the Coke County Cowboy Church was designated to receive a total of \$1,900 to help sponsor their youth camp, and to help provide flooring for their youth building.

In addition to these monetary benefits for the community, businesses are reporting good activity for the weekend's activities as well.

Feedback from the professional hunting crews, tourists, and local citizens has been positive, and plans are already in the works for next year!

Supt. Hood recommended accepting the bid from Robert Patterson for Purchase of Property held in Trust by Coke County for Blk 1, Lots 18-19, Edith Estates. Tom Sawyer made a motion to approve the recommendation and was seconded by Jeffie Roberts. All were for.

Supt. Hood recommended signing the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Robert Lee on Trust Property. George Grim made a motion to approve the recommendation and was seconded by Beverly Sinclair. All were for.

Supt. Hood gave his report on enrollment numbers, budget update, and calendar updates.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2019, at 5 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Senate passes eminent domain reform bill

Texans are one step closer to meaningful eminent domain reform with the Senate's passage of CSSB 421.

"Today's Senate vote shows Texans that our senators know landowners need more fairness, transparency and accountability when their property is taken with eminent domain," Texas Farm Bureau President Russell Boening said.

The bill, authored by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, passed the Senate with a 28-3 vote.

CSSB 421 mandates that all

easement agreements used for pipelines or electric transmission lines include minimum protections for landowners.

The bill also outlines increased transparency between the condemning private entity and the landowners.

Private entities would be required to host a meeting with affected landowners if 25 or more tracts of land owned by separate individuals are impacted by a project. If less

than 25 tracts are affected, the private entity will meet with landowners who request a meeting.

"This is not a willing buyer-seller transaction. Landowners cannot walk away from the table. They only have two options—accept an offer or get taken to court," Boening said. "However, CSSB 421 increases transparency and communication during the project to help protect

landowners. A meeting to discuss the details and get their questions answered helps landowners better

understand and navigate the project and negotiations."

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