

... Letter to the Editor

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His plan was to take the usable lumber from the demolitions and build some rental units on the Oak Creek land. These rental units would be of benefit to visitors to Ft. Chadbourne and the City of Bronte.

The proposed lease for the Oak Creek land of approximately 18 acres was presented to Ronny Loyd and the Bronte City Council. The Bronte City Council approved it unanimously. Ronny Loyd accepted and signed the lease.

Later it was determined the length of the lease, 99 years, might not be legal. Ronny Loyd was contacted by the City Secretary and agreed to a shorter term on the same day that he was contacted.

The Bronte City Council voted unanimously to terminate the original lease and renegotiate a new lease. After much opposition from visitors at the City Council meeting, they rescinded the motion to renegotiate the lease with Ronny Loyd. The council agreed they owed money to Ronny Loyd for his labor and improvements to the approximate 18 acres. The City of Bronte hired an independent company to appraise the improvements to the land. That appraisal was \$36,900.00 less \$2,000 for materials resulting is an appraisal of \$34,900.00. The City Council voted to offer Ronny Loyd \$30,000.00 for his labor and improvements. Ronny Loyd accepted and signed the offer. Afterwards the City Council rescinded the offer of \$30,000.00 and took no action to pay Ronny Loyd for his labor and improvements.

I realize by making this statement, I am not going to win "Man of the Year" but in my opinion the Bronte City Council may have showed questionable business practices but I can not

find anything unlawful.

To me, some of the worst actions were made by a few of the citizens of Bronte who made accusations against their neighbors. Some were debatable but some were just nasty and untrue. Mr. Sandusky taught and/or coached many of the Bronte residents and is well known. The statement "Some good old men go bad when they get on crack cocaine and no one knows what they will do" is the worse statement that I have ever heard. That statement about Mr. Sandusky could not be further from the truth and to insinuate it, was terrible. To the person who made the accusation that Mr. Sandusky received a barn from Ronny Loyd in exchange for special favors, that is a lie. Mr. Sandusky bought and paid for his barn before the Oak Creek lease was even thought about. I have known the Sandusky family for almost 79 years. I have never known or even heard one negative thing about any of these family members.

The rumors that were started that Mr. Loyd was not acting in a moral or professional manner are totally over the top. The innuendo that Ronny Loyd was an associate of another late Bronte contractor or the same type of contractor is ridiculous. Ronny Loyd is the best contractor that I have dealt with. All of his work is above and beyond what he contracted to do. I feel fortunate to have him as a friend.

Martin Lee has always tried to do things and promote projects to benefit Bronte.

Perhaps Bronte has a City Council that has shown poor judgment. I don't know. What I do think is to replace them with the type of folks that would use untrue tactics to try to bring down other people is scary.

The reason that I ever got involved with this is a man

approached me and handed me a piece of paper and asked if I agreed with this deal. I replied that it didn't matter if I agreed with the deal or not, but it was a done deal. And if he pursued it, it was going to cost the City of Bronte a lot of time and money, which it has as of this date. I am guessing since I didn't agree with him, he is now spreading false rumors about me too.

I have always told my kids "Do what would make your mother proud." Can everyone involved with this entire ordeal truthfully say they have done this?

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... National Library Week

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In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were spending less on books and more on radios, televisions and musical instruments. Concerned that Americans were reading less, the ALA and the American Book Publishers formed a nonprofit citizens organization called the National Book Committee in 1954. The committee's goals were ambitious. They ranged from "encouraging people to read in their increasing leisure time" to "improving incomes and health" and "developing strong and happy family life."

In 1957, the committee developed a plan for National Library Week based on the idea that once people were motivated to read, they would support and use libraries. With the cooperation of ALA and with help from the Advertising Council, the first National Library Week was observed in 1958 with the theme "Wake Up and Read!"

National Library Week was observed again in 1959, and the ALA Council voted to continue the annual celebration. When

the National Book Committee disbanded in 1974, ALA assumed full sponsorship.

Fire Season Tips

By Mark Sides, RLVFD

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 become 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 and adequate turnaround space for emergency equipment.

11) Exercise extreme caution and keep a reliable, pressurized water source handy when doing any outdoor burning or welding.

12) Don't allow tall grass and debris to accumulate against your house or under your porch or deck.

These items alone may not guarantee that your home will survive, but they will give your home and responding firefighters a fighting chance.

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