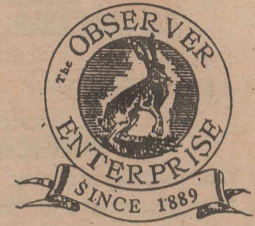


# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

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

Vol. 109, No. 28

Friday, February 14, 1997

## Commissioners' Court actions listed

February 10, 1997

The meeting was called to order by Judge Pro-tem Paul Burns. Prayer and pledge to the flag opened the meeting.

The minutes were read and approved.

Mr. Davis, the county trapper, visited with the court regarding his trapping procedures, etc. From November through January he reported 20 coyotes, 27 bobcats, 1 red fox, and 27 gray fox.

The court approved leasing the recreation hall in Robert Lee to the Fire Department for Bingo.

Historical Committee appointments were tabled.

There was no discussion on seal coating.

New fees were adopted on private road work.

The Treasurer's Affidavit was approved. Cash this year totaled \$808,184.59, and other assets this year totaled \$535,400.00. In comparison to last year, cash totaled \$794,236.16 and other assets totaled \$478,000.00. Previous month cash figure stood at \$523,084.73, and other assets totaled \$535,400.00.

An agreement was signed with TAC and Office Depot for group purchasing. Savings could be up to 61%.

Purchasing agent appointment was tabled.

Public hearing on ADA Grant was scheduled for February 25, 1997 at 2:00 pm, following the public hearing on closure of Walnut Road.

Tabled any further grant applications.

Approved Sinclair Oil Corporation's request for a geophysical survey.

Re-approved Kristi Roe's Bond, due to State's request.

Approved fee schedule on appointed counsel.

Approved D'Ann Eubanks to the Coke County Juvenile Financial Corporation Board.

No private road work request.

Tabled the visit to Wackenhut Juvenile facility.

Bills paid and meeting adjourned.

### RL ISD School Board election

The Robert Lee ISD will begin taking applications for a place on the ballot for the May 3, 1997 school board election.

The positions of Dianne Simpson, Beverly Burdett, and Darrel Pitcock will be expiring.

Applications for a place on the ballot can be picked up during regular office hours, 8 am - 4 pm, Monday through Friday, beginning February 17, 1997. The last day to file is March 19, 1997.

### WCCHD Elections

The West Coke County Hospital District Board of Directors is expected to call for the annual election of members at their next regularly scheduled Board Meeting, February 20, 1997. Two Directors will be elected for two year terms. The filing period for petitions should be February 17, 1997 through March 19, 1997. Anyone residing in West Coke County is eligible to file for a place on the ballot. Any resident wishing more details may contact Mary Bessent, Board President or Roger Alexander, Administrator.

## BNH appoints Andrews

Jeanene Andrews is the new interim administrator for Bronte Nursing Home as of February 1, 1997. As interim administrator, Ms. Andrews will focus on expanding the census of the facility, hold a nurses aide training class in the summer of '97, and have AIT's (administrators in training) doing their internship in the Bronte Nursing Home.

Texas requires long-term care administrators to have a four year degree and a 200 hour long term care training class, and 1,000 hours of practicum by working in a long term care facility. This requires spending time in all the different departments of facility.

Ms. Andrews has a varied educational background including adjunct professor at Wayland Baptist University, Lubbock Center. AITs can do their internship in a 60 bed nursing facility without a full-time preceptor and can work up to 40 hours per week. Wayland offers the classes

needed to complete the AIT program and they are taught year around.

Jeanene Andrews, MBA, earned an MBA with Health Emphasis at Wayland Baptist University in 1992 and has taught long term care classes as well as serving as a preceptor for the State and the University.

Ms. Andrews is no stranger to Coke County, however. As West Coke County Hospital District Administrator from 1985 through 1988, she expanded the nursing home from a 48 ICF bed to an 86 bed facility and formed the Auxiliary of fifty local residents. Plans are in the works at the present time for an auxiliary at the Bronte Nursing Home.

Three years of superior ratings from TDHS was a great reward for the staff members who worked hard to give superior care to the residents at WCCNH.

The Bronte Nursing Home will hold a February 14 Valentine party for the residents at 3 pm. The public is invited and family members are welcome.

"Our goal at ECCHD is to continue to provide our residents with the highest quality of care and demonstrate our love and appreciation for their many years of toil and labor in our community. If you don't have a member of your family in a nursing home, we challenge you to visit our facility and share the joy we find in making their days a little bit brighter," stated Ms. Andrews.



Work on the new Town & Country in Bronte is well underway. Crews are shown preparing the site for the gas and diesel tanks.

### Holiday closings

The Coke County Courthouse will be closed Monday, February 17 in honor of President's Day. Business will resume as usual Tuesday, February 18.

Several other government offices, such as City Hall in Robert Lee and Bronte and Bronte and Robert Lee Post Offices will also be closed for the holiday. Other businesses closing for the day will be First National Bank in Bronte and Robert Lee State Bank.

### Registration set for Coke County Little League

Coke County Little League registration sessions will be February 18 and 19, and again March 4 and 5. Registration will be conducted at both Bronte and Robert Lee fields on these dates from 5 to 6:30 pm.

Players need to bring a copy of their birth certificate. Parents are requested to accompany the player if possible.



Jeanene Andrews

Valentine's Day FEB 14

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
 Per Year in Coke County.....\$15.00  
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**Death Notices**

**Rocha**  
 Jesus Rocha, 63, of Robert Lee died Monday, January 27, 1997. Services were held Wednesday, January 30, at 11:00 am at the Robert Lee Baptist Church with Father Jim Chaumont officiating. Burial followed in the Robert Lee Hispanic Cemetery. Services were under the direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

He is survived by his wife, Josephine Rocha; one daughter, Frances Mendoza; six grandchildren, Griselda Rocha, Jesus Corritos, Veronica Corritos, Sergio Rocha, Amanda Mendoza and Alexis Mendoza, all of Robert Lee; two brothers, Raymundo Rocha of Acuna Coah., Manuel Rocha of Del Rio; four sisters, Francisca Mendoza of Del Rio; Luciana Cartaino of Robert Lee; Consuelo Bravo of Del Rio; and Amabilia Lopez of Del Rio.

**Canfil**  
 Services are pending at Rains-Seale Funeral Home, Ballinger, Texas, for Vicki Holland Canfil, 48, of Headington, Oxford, England. She was the daughter of the late H. J. Holland and Mary Holland of San

**WCC EMS donations and memorials listed**  
 The following memorials and donations were made to West Coke County EMS during the month of January.

**Opal Baker**  
 Bob & Nona Davis, 64 Study Club, Kay Taylor.

**Marjorie Harwell**  
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Wojtek, Bob & Jamie Boren.

**Winnie Palmer**  
 Wanda Caulder.

**Mary Belle Deere**  
 64 Study Club.

**Charlene Blair**  
 Mr. & Mrs. Wilbern Millican.

**Fred Goodman**  
 Mary May Wylie, Mike & Fran (Wylie) Lomas & family, Stan & Prescilla (Wylie) Davis & family.

**Perry Post**  
 Fred & Alice Beaty, Bill & Ruby Jones, Bob & Jamie Boren, Doris Shandley, Kay Taylor, Lawrence & Chrys Higgins, Jack & Nina Brewer, Mr. & Mrs. Wilbern Millican.

**Mike Ross**  
 Doris Shandley, Mr. & Mrs. Wilbern Millican.

**Sandra Cantrell**  
 Ruth Beal.

**Donna Morton**  
 Mr. & Mrs. Wilbern Millican.

Angelo; sister of Cap and Tony Holland, granddaughter of the late Herbert Holland and Ruth Holland, all of Bronte; and granddaughter of the late Dee and Kate Foster of Big Spring.

**Horner**  
 Dorothy J. Edging Horner, 64, of Paint Rock died Sunday, February 9, 1997, in a San Angelo hospital.

There will be no services. Arrangements are by Johnson's Funeral Home. Survivors include her husband, Lewis Horner of Paint Rock; three sons, Nathon Edging of Fort Worth, Larry Edging of Kevil, Kentucky, and Donald Edging of Robert Lee; a daughter, Tanja Mooney of San Angelo; and eight grandchildren.

**Wells**  
 Jean M. Wells, 67, of Robert Lee died Tuesday, January 11, 1997 at her residence.

Graveside services were held at 3:30 pm Thursday, January 13 in Robert Lee.

Survivors include her husband, Robert Wells of the home; one son Dale Wells; 4 daughters, Shelby, Joyce Ann, Terri, and Donna, all of Robert Lee; 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**Junell appointed to committees**  
 Texas House Speaker Pete Laney recently announced that he has appointed Representative Rob Junell, D-San Angelo, to serve as a member of the newly created Select

Committee on Revenue and Public Education Funding. He also was appointed Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and will serve on the House General Investigating Committee.

"Committees are where a lot of hard work gets done during the legislative session. The House members will be at the Capitol many long hours, hearing testimony and studying bills," Speaker Laney said. "I appreciate Representative Junell's participation in this important part of the legislative process."

Committee assignments are one of the first items of business during the 140 day Texas legislative session, which concludes June 2. Each House member is assigned to committees to scrutinize legislation and recommend bills and resolutions.

The 11 member special committee on revenue and school funding was created by Speaker Laney to give these issues the kind of attention and consideration they deserve. "I believe creation of this committee will increase the prospects for producing a plan that can be supported by the House, the Senate and the Governor," Speaker Laney said.

The 27 member Appropriations Committee proposes a two year state budget for consideration by the House. It also has jurisdiction over all bills and resolutions appropriating money from the state treasury.

The five member General Investigating Committee may conduct inquiries and hearings concerning state government, the expenditure of public funds and any other matter the committee considers necessary for the information of the Legislature or the welfare of state citizens.

Representative Junell represents House District 72, which includes Coke, Irion, Mitchell, Sterling and Tom Green counties. He has been a House member since 1989.

**Light graduates**  
 Daniel D. Light of Robert Lee was one of over 800 students scheduled to graduate from Stephen F. Austin State University during fall commencement.

Light was a candidate for a BA in criminal justice law enforcement.

**...Upcoming**

**Runnels Baptist Assoc. to meet**

The regular meeting of Runnels Baptist Association will be held Monday, February 17, at First Baptist Church, Bronte.

The meeting begins with the WOM and executive board at 5:30 pm. The evening meal will be served at 6:15 pm.

A prayer conference begins at 7:15 pm. Bro. Morris Johnson, Associational Prayer Director, is in charge of the program.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

**Bronte Little Dribblers practices to begin**

Bronte Little Dribblers will hold their first practice Saturday, February 15, at the school. The practice schedule is as follows: K-2nd grade boys and girls, 9-10 am; 3rd & 4th grade boys, 9-10 am; 3rd & 4th grade girls, 10-11 am; and 5th and 6th grade boys and girls, 11 am - 12 noon.

All practices will be held on Saturdays. A game schedule will be announced later.

**Bronte GTE customers to vote**

Bronte telephone exchange (473) customers will cast their ballots to add Robert Lee and Abilene to their Expanded Local Calling in the next few weeks. There will be **NO INCREASE** in monthly telephone charges to add these cities. Customers will receive their ballots by February 20.

Seventy percent of the votes cast must be in favor of adding Abilene and Robert Lee for it to be approved.

For more information, contact Bronte City Hall at 473-3501.

**Coke Co. RTA to meet**

Coke County Retired Teachers Association will meet Monday, February 17, 1997. The noon luncheon meeting will be held at the United Methodist Church in Bronte.

**Free clinic offered**

A free blood pressure and blood sugar health clinic will be held Friday, February 21 at the Tennyson Post Office.

The clinic will be held from 8:30 am until 9:30 am and is sponsored by the North Runnels Home Health Agency. A similar clinic is held the third Friday of every month. It is free to anyone regardless of age or income.

For additional information, please contact the Tennyson Post Office at 473-6002.


**Blackwell FHA members share with 3rd graders**

The members of the Blackwell chapter of Future Homemakers of America recently taught the Blackwell third grade class about food and nutrition. Over a four week period, Mrs. Lisa Stanford's students received instructions on the Food Guide Pyramid, reading food product labels, the benefits of exercise, preparing simple nutritious snacks, and careers related to food and nutrition. The Elementary students as well as the FHA members enjoyed the time and knowledge they shared during these lessons.


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**HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE**

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 In Observance Of  
**President's Day**



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**First National Bank in Bronte**

Member FDIC 453-2545 Robert Lee, TX  
 Member FDIC 473-2911 Bronte, TX

**Wink celebrates 87th birthday**

Sixty-nine relatives and friends gathered in the big rec hall in Robert Lee to celebrate Erma Wink's 87th birthday Saturday, February 8. Erma was happy to have five generations at the party. The five generations were Erma, her daughter Erma Lee Gartman, her grand-daughter Judy Blair, her great-granddaughter Tracie Tennison, and her great-great-grandson and great-great-granddaughter Josh and Ashlie Tennison.

All seven of Erma's children were present. Daughters attending were Erma Lee Gartman, Leslie Nell Hanky, and Linda Kay Ledbetter. Sons at the party were Milburn, Kenneth, Robert and Harvey.

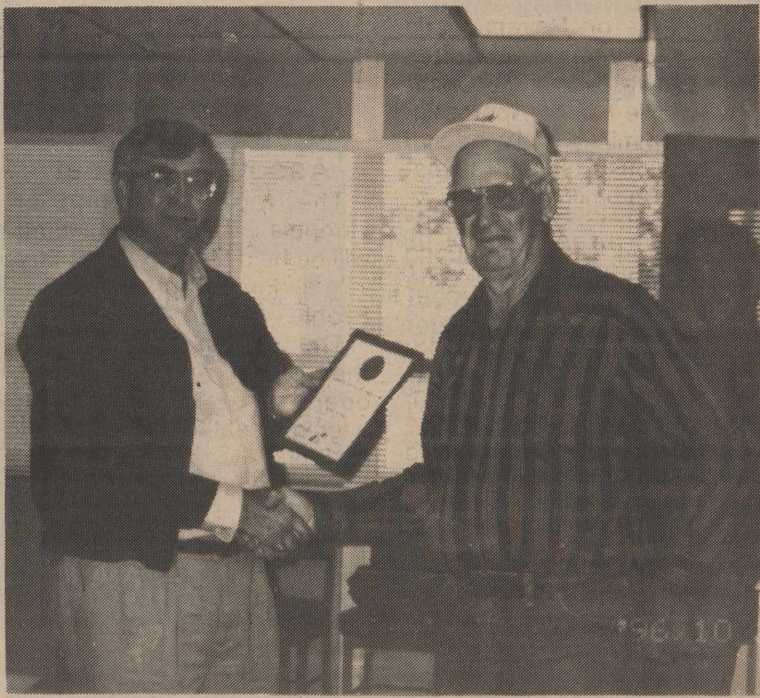
Relatives and friends from fourteen towns and cities attended. They included: Tracie, Josh, and Ashlie Tennison; Butch and Melva Winkler of Abilene; Isabel Davis of Alpine; Leslie Hanky, Ashland Virginia; Alisha Wink, Big Spring; Barbara Crousen, Clyde; Harvey, Sharie and Joseph Wink, Eldorado; Brian Parker, Euless; Charles and Kay Ledbetter, Anthony Wink, Jason Wink, and Lori Wink all of Lubbock; Kenneth and Betty Wink of Marathon; Lisa Ledbetter, McKinney; Erma Wink, Milburn Wink, Robert, Marsha, and Cassidy Wink, Douglas and Erma Lee Gartman, Syliva Tinkler, Bob and Polly Large, Roy and Jennie Tinkler, Roy and Carrie Mable Casey, Bill and Pat Carwile, Winnie Pitcock, David and Alene Key, Ava Lou Davis, Wayne and Dorene Mashburn, May Belle Stewart, Ruth Williams, Bobby and Jeffie Roberts, Roy and Judy Blair, Joyce Dodson, Curtis and Annice Walker, Wilburn and Charlotte Millican, and Kelly Millican all of Robert Lee; Kerry, Frankie, Jordan, and Justin Gartman of Robesville; Clarence Tinkler, Randy Shae, Brandon Gartman, and Jenny Wink all of San Angelo; Bunyon Millican, Doug and Debbie Wilkes, Silver; and Dennis and Linda Gartman of Snyder.

Those attending enjoyed plenty of food, good fellowship, and various games.

Stenholm receives award

**Stenholm receives award**  
Congressman Charlie Stenholm received the non-partisan Concord Coalition's "Economic Patriot" Award, at a ceremony in Abilene for his efforts to balance the federal budget. Congressman Stenholm scored in the 97th percentile on the Concord Coalition Citizens' Council "Hard Choices" 1996 Scorecard. Overall, Congressman Stenholm ranked #12 out of 435 Representatives in the US Congress.

Concord-Texas State Director Drew Scheberle said at the ceremony, "There are organizations out there who strictly score on whether a Congressman voted to cut spending. Our members believe that the budget must be in balance before tax cut candy should be distributed. Stenholm stands out for his efforts to balance the budget first. Though we do not agree on all issues, Congressman



**Roland Sowell, Maintenance Technician with the Texas Department of Transportation, recently received his 25 year service award from District Engineer Walter McCullough, P.E.**

Stenholm is a credible voice and a reliable vote in favor of fiscally responsible budgeting. On behalf of the children faced with paying off this enormous federal debt, the Concord Coalition thanks Congressman Stenholm for his efforts."

The 16 votes used to gauge members' fiscal responsibility in the 1996 Scorecard were chosen because they: \*Proposed increases or reductions in the deficit through spending or tax decisions; \*Offered a chance to eliminate or reduce

spending for pork barrel programs, to eliminate big ticket projects that cannot be afforded right now, or to make government more efficient; \*Involved important procedural issues affecting how budgeting decisions would be made in the future.

Stenholm received high marks for his votes in favor of the Blue Dog Budget Resolution, reduction in defense spending to Pentagon-requested levels, and establishment of a deficit-reduction lock-box that required spending cuts to be dedicated to deficit reduction and not to further spending in other areas of the budget.

The Concord Coalition Citizens' Council is a non-partisan, grassroots organization dedicated to bringing our national budget into long-term balance, increasing public savings and long-term investments in our common future. Texas has more than 10,000 members dedicated to this mission. Founded by former Senator Warren Rudman, a Republican, and the late Senator Paul Tsongas, Concord Coalition strives to bring both political parties toward fiscal responsibility.

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Dr. Sherrod is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. He is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology and is board certified in internal medicine and cardiology.

*Dr. Gene Sherrod will conduct a Cardiology Clinic beginning Tuesday, February 25, at the Shamrock Clinic of Robert Lee.*

For more information or an appointment, please call  
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Reg. or w/Jalapenos **Ranch Style Beans** 15 oz. can **3/\$1**

**Coca Cola** 6 pack 20 oz. Btles. **2/\$5**

**Coca Cola** 12 pk. 12 oz. cans **3.29**

# BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS

## BHS cookbook offered

The "Remember When" cookbook goes on sale February 17, 1997. The cookbook is published by the Bronte High School Class of '97.

Over the past weeks, seniors have collected "all time favorite recipes" from members and friends. The cookbook will include the name of each individual along with the recipe contributed.

In addition to the delicious recipes in the book, there will be household tips and a crafts section.

All proceeds from the book will support the Class of '97 Project Graduation fund raising efforts.

"Remember When" can be ordered by contacting any senior or senior parent.

## BHS student council holds first meeting of 1997

The BHS Student Council held a meeting January 29, 1997. Some of the things on the agenda included fundraisers, an assembly, a spring dance, the State Convention, upcoming elections, a pizza party, and a memorial page for Darrel Sharp. The council also judged posters.

The fundraisers were the Computer Fun, in which we

had the Junior High and High School students fill out a questionnaire in order to find out who they are compatible with. The teachers also were included, but used fictitious names. Another fundraiser will be a spring dance to be held in March. More details will be worked out in the next meeting.

The council discussed a motivational program that will be presented to the entire school. The assembly is set for February 13.

The reason for the fundraisers is to help finance this year's and next year's student council members trip to the State Convention in Austin. The election for next year's officers will be in March.

The pizza party is for all the Students of the Month from the beginning of the school year through the present. It will be held later this month in Mrs. Arrott's classroom.

## Sonnenberg recognized at reception

On Wednesday, February 5th, there was a reception at the Dallas Art Institute to recognize the honor students from the fall quarter. The reception was held at 5:00 pm in the lobby of the school. Those present at the reception included administrators, faculty, and honor students.

Lynn Sonnenberg, of Bronte, was one of the students recognized at the reception. Lynn finished his first quarter in December with a 4.0 grade point average. He was one of only five out of the Interior Design Department to be recognized.

The Interior Design department has the largest number of students enrolled than any other department.

Lynn is the son of Bruce and Fran Sonnenberg of Bronte.

## BNH open house set for March 2

An open house is scheduled for Sunday, March 2, 1997, at Bronte Nursing Home from 3 to 4:30 pm.

The open house will take the form of a tea and its purpose will be to introduce the new interim administrator, Jeanene Andrews, to the community.

## Practice UIL meet results posted

Bronte Junior High and High School students traveled to Robert Lee Saturday, February 8, for a UIL practice meet. High School students attending were Shea Kelton, Felicia Beam, and George Tomes. Junior High students participating were Jade Richards, Cara Sefcik, Henry White, Natalie O'Bannon, Amanda Bowie, Kevin Wooldridge, Cheyann Head, Lauren Williams, Lacy Schoenfield, Steve Eldred, Morgan McCutchen, Stormy White, Brandon Poehls, Chrissie Counts, and Christina Galvan.

The students all gained valuable experience in their preparation for the District Spring Academic UIL meet in late March. Those students winning medals and ribbons were: 7th Grade Spelling - Morgan McCutchen, 1st place; 7th Grade Science - Kevin Wooldridge, 4th place; 7th Grade Dictionary Skills - Christina Galvan, 3rd place; 7th Grade Maps, Graphs and Charts - Brandon Poehls, 4th place, and Steve Eldred, 6th place; 8th Grade Science - Jade Richards, 2nd place; 8th Grade Number Sense - Jade Richards, 2nd place; 8th Grade Maps, Graphs and Charts - Cara Sefcik, 4th place.

George Tomes, a 9th grade student, placed 7th in High School Computer Applications. His score was the highest among the schools in our District. With a little more practice, Bronte should be well represented at the District meet.

## Former Bentwood pro moving to South Carolina

Jimmy Tidwell, former head golf professional at Bentwood Country Club, is moving to South Carolina.

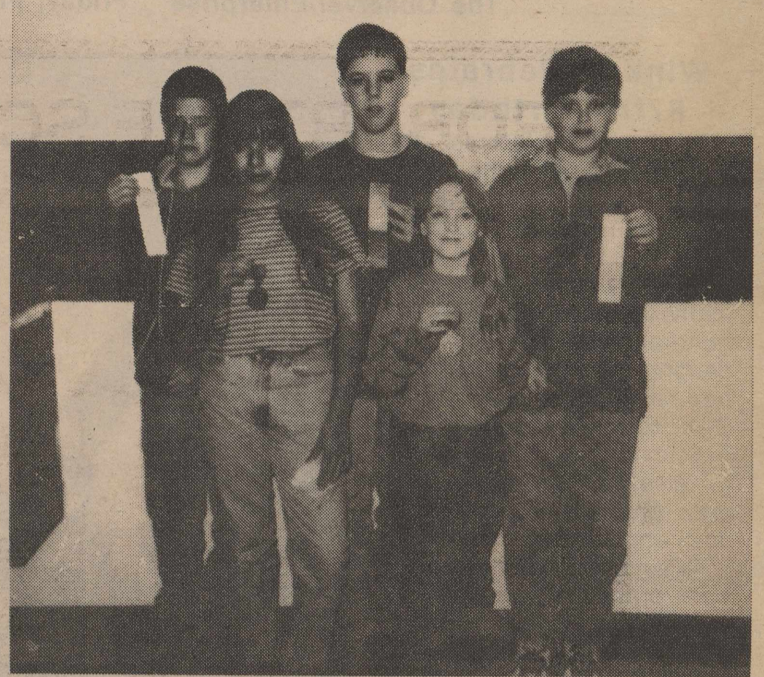
Tidwell, who has spent the last two years at Countryside Country Club in Clearwater, Florida, is moving to Woodside Plantation Country Club in Aiken, South Carolina. He also was named Golf Professional of the Year for the Southeast Region by Club Corporation of America.

Jimmy and his wife, Coralie, will move around March 1. The Woodside course is a 45-hole layout. Aiken, South Carolina is on the Georgia/South Carolina border and is less than 30 minutes from Augusta, Georgia, home of the Masters Golf Tournament.

Jimmy is the son of James and Brenda Tidwell of Bronte.

## AISE seeks hosts

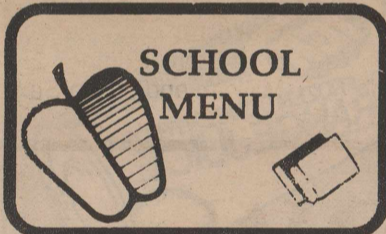
The American Intercultural Student Exchange, a non-profit educational foundation, is seeking local host families for high school foreign exchange students for the 1997-98 school year. Every year, AISE places thousands of exchange students with host families throughout the United States. AISE exchange students live with American families and attend local high schools during their ten month intercultural exchange. American host families provide these young ambassadors with a room, meals,



Bronte Junior High 7th Graders are shown with the medals and ribbons they earned at the UIL Academic practice meet held in Robert Lee February 8. Pictured are (front row, from left) Christina Galvan, Morgan McCutchen, (back row, from left) Kevin Wooldridge, Steve Eldred, and Brandon Poehls.



Bronte 8th graders, Cara Sefcik, (center), and Jade Richards, (right), and BHS 9th grader, George Tomes, are shown with the medals and ribbons they earned at the UIL Academic practice meet held in Robert Lee February 8.



### Breakfast

**Monday, Feb. 17**  
French Toast, Apple Sauce, Milk

**Tuesday, Feb. 18**  
Breakfast Pizza, Grape Juice, Milk

**Wednesday, Feb. 19**  
Sausage, Apple Juice, Pancakes, Milk

**Thursday, Feb. 20**  
Breakfast Burrito, Grape Juice, Milk

**Friday, Feb. 21**  
Cereal, Sliced Peaches, Biscuit, Milk

### Lunch

**Monday, Feb. 17**  
Chicken Nuggets w/Gravy, Creamed Potatoes, Sweet Corn, Rolls, Milk, Banana Pudding

**Tuesday, Feb. 18**  
Pigs In A Blanket, Tator Tots, Macaroni & Cheese, Red Grapes, Milk

**Wednesday, Feb. 19**  
Soft Tacos w/Cheese, Spanish Rice, Refried Beans, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Flour Tortilla, Milk, Cherry Cobbler

**Thursday, Feb. 20**  
Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Vegetable Soup, Carrot Sticks, Cornbread, Milk, Chocolate Cake

**Friday, Feb. 21**  
Chick-Fil-Lay Sandwich, Pickle Chips, French Fries, Coleslaw, Bun, Milk, Cinnamon Rolls

and a loving, family atmosphere in which to live. AISE students are eager to learn about our government, history, customs, and language, while at the same time leaving a lasting impression of their cultures in the minds and hearts of their American host families and peers. Call AISE at 1-800-742-5464 or visit the AISE web site at <http://www.sibling.org> for more information on hosting a foreign exchange student in your home.

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# ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS



RLHS Seniors show off gifts received during their Christmas celebration at the Senior Citizens' building.

## RL Seniors celebrate Christmas

A jolly ho-ho-ho was heard at the December RLHS Senior Class Christmas party. Cynthia Hill and Phyllis Cole hosted the event at the Senior Citizens' building in Robert Lee. Christmas decorations filled the room to add to the festive atmosphere.

The hungry students devoured the refreshments provided by the parents. The seniors divided into 2 teams

and played Pictionary, then Taboo. Winning these games were important to the teams and they fought to the bitter end. After all was said and done, they split victories.

The grand finale was having a Chinese Christmas. Each student drew a number then unwrapped the gift of his choice. Some of the best gifts were a used razor, a red (toy) sports car, hand cleaner, bug spray, gum ball machine, and denture cleaner. The seniors enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to the next party.

Those seniors attending were: Daryl Calder, Chad Leugers, Jerrod Copeland, Jerrod Pitcock, Corey Pitcock, Gilbert Torres, Bobby Longoria, Meagan Hill, Brandy Brosh, Kizzie Howell, Kannan Millican, Misti Williams, Jennifer Parks, Shalon Waldrop, Jason Tavarez, Fred Wojtek, Rocky Coates, Starsky Oleksiuk, and Mike Pentecost.

## RLISD board meeting date changed

Due to scheduling conflicts, the February board meeting of the Robert Lee ISD will be changed from February 18th to February 25th. As always, the public is invited to attend each and every board meeting. Meetings are held at 6:30 pm in the high school library.

## Lady Steers Basketball

The Lady Steers have been hitting the court racking up wins in their quest to continue on to the playoffs. The Ladies added three victories to their win list in the last week.

RL faced off against the Lady Eagles from Sterling City and handed that team a 53-49 defeat. Shalon Waldrop was high pointer for Robert Lee with 20 points. Jennifer Scott lit the board with 13, Kannan Millican and Bree Bolding each tipped in 8. Kizzie Howell rounded out the scoring with 4 points.

The Ladies hosted the Lady Horns in a cross-county contest and came up on the winning end of a tight game with a 42-41 win. High pointer was Shalon Waldrop with 14 points. Jennifer Scott tossed in 10, Bree Bolding 10, Kannan Millican 4, and Kizzie Howell 4.

Robert Lee's Ladies were in Water Valley Friday night to ensure that they could continue on the playoff road. They did just that with a 67-51 win over the Lady Cats. Shalon Waldrop was on in a big way as she tipped in 27 points, nabbed 19 rebounds, 11 steals, and had 3 blocks. Jennifer Scott was also hot with 11 points, 9 rebounds and 6 assists, Kizzie Howell got in on the action with 11 points, 4 assists, and 3 rebounds. Others scoring for the Ladies were: Bree Bold-



RL Elementary Accelerated Reader winners for the month of January display prizes donated by Robert Lee State Bank.

ing with 10, Melissa Smith 3, Kannan Millican 2 points, 9 assists, Tracy Millican 1, and Stacy Hendry 1.

The varsity squad ended their regular season with an overall record of 19-8, 4-2 in district play.

The Junior Varsity squad's 31-26 win over Water Valley Friday night brought their season record to 13-4, 4-2 in district competition.

## Horn

1. Brettie Reed; 2. Kelsy Duncan.

## Duncan

1. Sarah Philley & Becca Skinner; 2. Katie Bessent.

## 3rd Grade

## Devoll

1. Kyla Millican; 2. Teka Long and Eric Ortega.

## McCown

1. Kayla Medrano and Stephanie Trejo; 2. Amanda Robinson and Vanessa Saucedo.

## 4th Grade

## Davis

1. Julie Riley and Lindsey Roe.

## 5th Grade

## Wilson

1. Chris Eubanks; 2. Sean Barnett.

## 6th Grade

## Burns

1. Kindra Johnson.

## Gardner

1. Sean Edging; 2. Ashlee Millican and Justin Sexton.

## RL Accelerated Readers

Accelerated readers for the month of January were recently named. They are as follows:

### 1st Grade

#### Byrne

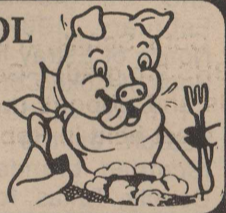
1. Allison Millican; 2. Eric Covington.

#### Payne

1. Chase Roe; 2. Molly Burns.

### 2nd Grade

## SCHOOL MENU



Menus are subject to change.

### Breakfast

#### Monday, Feb. 17

Breakfast Bagel, Orange Juice, Milk.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 18

Donut, Cold Cereal, Orange Juice, Milk.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 19

Sausage, Biscuit, Gravy, Orange Juice, Milk.

#### Thursday, Feb. 20

Breakfast Pizza, Orange Juice, Milk.

#### Friday, Feb. 21

Cinnamon Roll, Cold Cereal, Orange Juice, Milk.

### Lunch

#### Monday, Feb. 17

Fish W/Tartar Sauce, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, Hushpuppies, Peaches, Milk.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 18

Fajitas w/Flour Tortillas, Lettuce, Tomato, Refried Beans, Pears, Milk.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 19

Chicken Spaghetti, Seasoned Carrots, Homemade Rolls, Applesauce, Milk.

#### Thursday, Feb. 20

Mexican Casserole, Potato Patty, Seasoned Corn, Crackers, Fruit Cocktail, Milk.

#### Friday, Feb. 21

Chick-Fil-A, Pickles, Seasoned Fries, Pineapple Tidbits, Brownies, Milk.

## MEET WITH West Coke County Community Development

Join with others interested in keeping our community projects alive and well.

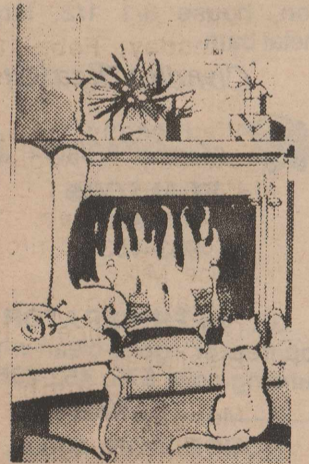
Reorganization meeting at the Courthouse

5:15 pm - Tuesday, February 18

We Welcome Your Input & Attendance

# NOW...

You can stay in the comfort of your warm home and do your banking at the same time.



With Telebanking there is no need to get out in the cold.

Just dial 453-2585 to do your banking.



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Class Ads...5 pm Tues.  
Display Ads...5 pm Tues.  
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**FOR SALE**

**Let's Look...Redecorated,** new carpet, central heat/air, 3 bedrooms, fenced yard, quiet neighborhood  
**Extra. Extra. Extra.** This home has it all. Vacant and ready for occupancy.  
**Mobile Home** on approximately 2 acres. Quiet, easy access from highway.

Elaine Lee  
453-2995



**BRONTE LOTS FOR SALE**  
East Barclay and Cumbie. Corner lot and adjoining. 166' x 140'. Utilities/sewer to property. Paved streets. Quiet residential. 473-6291.  
18B-tnc

**FOR SALE**  
Three bedroom, two bath house for sale at 724 S. State, Bronte. 473-4031.  
28B-tnc

**PIANO**  
for sale. Call 473-5991.  
28B-1tc

**COUCH FOR SALE**  
Green floral, excellent condition. Call Joyce Dodson, 453-2489.  
28-2tc

**NINTENDO**  
& 28 games, 2 controls, 1 zapper gun. Games mostly sports and war. \$125 or best offer. 473-2070.  
28B-1tc

**HOUSE FOR SALE**  
by owner. Brick, 3 BR, 2 bath, 2-car attached garage; central heating/air; ceiling fans; interior freshly painted; new carpet throughout; new ceramic tile floors in kitchen and bathrooms; new roof; fenced yard. Owner financing. 219 Zero St., Robert Lee. Call collect, 409-836-6265.  
15-tnc

**FOR SALE, LEASE OR RENT**  
Owner Finance, 810 N. 11th, Robert Lee. Three bedrooms, bath, fireplace, new carpet, new interior and exterior paint, storage, corner lot. Contact Jeanene Andrews, 473-3621, or Harvey Andrews, c/o A-1 Homes, 653-1152, (915) 367-4643 or (806) 792-8492.  
28-tnc

**FOR RENT**

**FOR RENT**  
2 bedroom, 1 bath, country home, 2 miles outside Robert Lee on Silver Hwy. Call (915) 550-3523 after 6:30 pm.  
28-2tc

**FOR RENT OR LEASE**  
Building, 20 x 32 ft., 640 sq. ft. Formerly beauty shop. Call 453-4786.  
16-tnc

**MISC**

**VALENTINE BALLOONS**  
Don't forget your little sweeties.  
Delivered to school.  
Molly B's  
453-2036  
28-1tc

**DO YOU NEED**  
home repair or plumbing? Mobile home experience. No job too small. References available. Louis Clark, 453-2924, Robert Lee.  
27-2tc

**D & L DOZER SERVICE & CUSTOM FARMING**  
Larry Spivey, owner-operator. PO Box 160, Bronte, Texas. Phone (Oak Creek Lake) (915) 743-2577.  
27B-tnc

**JOIN OTHERS INTERESTED**  
in their community by attending a re-organization meeting of West Coke County Community Development at the Courthouse, 5:15 pm, on Tuesday, February 18.  
27a-2tc

**LAST MINUTE VALENTINES!**  
See Molly B's for help.  
453-2036  
28-1tc

**NATION WIDE COMPANY**  
expanding in your area. Call (915) 651-5448.  
28-1tp

**CLEANING**  
Honest, hardworking, dependable, efficient. No job too big or too small. Patricia 282-3014, Sharon 743-2205.  
26-4tp

**FISH AND MINNOWS**  
for stocking. Order NOW. Delivery in March. Delivery to site available. Coke County SWCD. 453-2623.  
26a-tnc

**LET ME DO YOUR HOUSECLEANING**  
& your ironing. \$1/shirt & skirt, \$1.50/pants. Starch included. Leave message, pager Kathy Melton, 278-1126.  
27-2tc

**HALL'S HOME APPLIANCE REPAIR**  
Now serving Bronte, Blackwell, & Oak Creek Lake area. Excellent service & fair rates since 1978. Dave Hall, owner. Call 915-743-2355, Oak Creek Lake.  
26B-4tc

**"TEXAS BEST" DEFLOODING & CARPET CLEANING**

Free Estimates  
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Bronte - 473-6603

**HELP WANTED**

**FRUSTRATED & DISSATISFIED**  
with your current job? International company expanding in San Angelo. Looking for 5 people to run area office. Fastest growing privately owned company in America. For appointment, call 655-8703.  
28-1tc

**MOUNTAIN CREEK GOLF COURSE**  
is seeking someone that is interested in operating their own business keeping the clubhouse open, collecting fees, and keeping facilities clean, 453-2317.  
28-1tp

**CNA 2-10 SHIFT**  
Bronte Nursing Home has immediate employment opportunities for CNAs. Competitive wages and benefits. Call Manuela at 473-3621 for information.  
28B-1tc

**CARD OF THANKS**

**THANKS TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY**  
for the visits, food, flowers, and prayers for me during my hospital stay and recovery at home. Thanks to Southern Hills Church of Christ in Abilene and College Hills Church of Christ in San Angelo for their concern and prayers.  
Emogene Thornton  
28B-1tp

**NOTICES**

**THE CITY OF BRONTE**  
will accept bids for the sale of a Kelley Series 20 Backhoe Attachment. The Backhoe Attachment can be inspected at the City's Water Plant located at 123 West Jackson between 8 am and 4 pm Monday through Friday. Sealed bids will be accepted until 5 pm March 6, 1997. The City of Bronte reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. (915) 473-3501, Box 370, Bronte, Texas 76933.  
28B-2tc

**PUBLIC NOTICE COKE COUNTY**  
Coke County will hold a public hearing February 25 at 2 pm at the County Courthouse. The purpose of the hearing is to allow for final public comments regarding the completion of the 1995 Texas Community Development Program - Handicap Accessibility Improvements Project (Contract No. 715159). The general public is invited to attend and participate.

Should any non-English speaking citizens desire to address the County during the public hearing and needs the assistance of an interpreter, the County will attempt to provide one if sufficient notice is provided. Also, should any citizens desire technical assistance or handicap accessibility to the hearing site, please call the County Judge at the Courthouse (915) 453-2641.  
Judge Jackie Walker  
Coke County  
28a-1tc

**NOTICES**

**CONTRACTOR'S NOTICE OF HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE WORK**  
SEALED PROPOSALS FOR SMALL ROADSIDE SIGN SUPPORTS at various locations in Tom Green and Coke Counties and covered by Contract No. RMC - 6009-88-001 will be received in the Assembly Room of the Texas Department of Transportation's District Complex located at 4502 Knickerbocker Road, San Angelo, Texas, until 2 pm February 21, 1997, and then publicly opened and read.

Only prequalified contractors are eligible to bid. There will not be a prebid meeting for this project. Specifications and proposals for the above mentioned contract are available at the office of Mr. Dennis W. Wilde, P.E., Director of Operations, 915/944-1501, Loop 306 & Knickerbocker Road, San Angelo, Texas. Mailing address is 4502 Knickerbocker Road, San Angelo, Texas 76904.

Minority owned businesses are encouraged to bid. Usual rights reserved.  
27a-2tc

**NOTICE OF IMPOUNDMENT OF ESTRAY**

On the 30th day of January, 1997, I impounded the following estray:  
Kind of Animal: Cow  
Breed: Angus  
Color: Black  
Sex: Female  
Age: 4 to 7 years old  
Size: 900 to 1,000 lbs.  
Brand, Marks, Identifying Characteristics: Ear marks in both ears, no visible brands and, on the 3rd day of February, 1997, I filed a Notice of Estray in the Estray Book of Coke County, Texas. I have made a diligent search of the register of recorded brands in Coke County, Texas, for the owner of said estray, but the search did not reveal the owner.

Notice is hereby given that, if the ownership of said estray is not determined by the 19th day of February, 1997, said estray will be sold at public auction sale at Producers Livestock Auction. Witness my hand this 3rd day of February, 1997.  
Mike Harris  
Sheriff of Coke County, Texas  
(Designee of Sheriff of Coke County, Texas)  
Deputy Wayne McCutchen  
27a-2tc

**Letter to the Editor**

This is a warning concerning the City of Robert Lee Animal Ordinance #1050. To all of you that have cats or dogs that live in the city limits of Robert Lee. If you do not have your name on your cat, please put your name on its collar. The city has no holding pens for cats. Our cat was taken to the open pit and shot in the head in a very short time. If you love your animal the same as we did, buy it a collar, and put your name on the collar with a laundry marker.  
Grace Ditmore

**FOR SALE**

**ROBERT LEE**  
2+ acres fenced just outside city limits  
207+ acres, 40 acres cultivation, good fences, good hunting  
3 bedroom house on 2 lots, metal siding and roof, \$20's  
320+ acres - Attention Hunters!

**BRONTE**  
2+ acres fenced in city limits, city water  
2+ acres fenced, two houses, pecan trees, \$30's  
201+ acres, most in cultivation, house 3/1 1/2, large metal barn

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REALTOR®  
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653-4535

**GE REFRIGERATOR**  
top freezer - good-clean-white running now, \$75, 453-2867.  
26-tnc

**HOUSE FOR SALE, LEASE OR RENT**  
Newly remodeled 2 BR brick, fireplace, LR, den, 2 bath in Robert Lee. References requested. Call 453-4505 (days) or 453-2669 (evenings).  
27-tnc

**GET YOURS NOW!**  
Order your "Remember When" cookbook, published by BHS Seniors, for only \$6. Contact any senior or senior parent. Makes a great gift or keepsake! Profits will go to Project Graduation.  
28B-2tc

**PECAN TREES**  
for sale, \$2.50 & up. (915) 365-5043.  
23b-8tc



COUNTRY AGENTS NEWS

by Tommy Antilley  
Coke County Agent

Weeds and range management

The relatively mild winter has resulted in the germination of many broadleaf plants. Annual broomweed seedlings are abundant in many areas of the state. Broadleaf plants may be desirable or undesirable depending on management objectives. Grass production can be reduced significantly if these broadleaf plants develop to a mature stand. To improve grass production, the broadleaf plants are easily controlled with herbicides if the infestation is recognized when the plants are in a seedling stage of growth. Ranchers should be encouraged to survey their rangeland now to determine if a weed infestation is present. Grazon P+D, Weedmaster, 2,4-D, Grazon PC, Banvel or Ally (Escort) provide excellent control of most broadleaf weeds when applied at the proper time. Ally does not control western ragweed.

Following are a few "rules of thumb" that are used in the art and science of range management.

\*Weed control will increase grass production one pound for every pound of weeds removed.

\*Weeds can economically be controlled if they exceed a density of 8 plants per square yard.

\*Pastures should be reseeded if desirable plants make up less than 10% of the total vegetation.

\*With proper grazing only

FHA week declared in Blackwell

The week of February 9-15 is proclaimed Future Homemakers of America week in Blackwell thanks to Mayor Ronnie Harris, and members of the City Council. FHA members are enjoying a week of fun-filled activities in honor of the organization.

On Sunday, they began with a Walk and Roll family fitness event. The community joined together to walk or roll one mile around town. Then on Monday, we appreciated our teachers by serving them a wonderful breakfast. On Tuesday, we celebrated Earth Day by cleaning up around our campus. When Wednesday rolled around, we decorated our halls with posters and locker signs that will explain that FHA is the only youth organization with family as its primary focus.

Then on Thursday, we delivered Valentines to the residents of local nursing homes. On Friday, we encourage both members and non-members to wear red and white in celebration of the FHA colors. And for the final day of FHA week, Saturday, we will hang posters all over town to inform all the citizens about our FHA organization. We hope that everyone will get involved in our fun filled activities that will celebrate Future Homemakers of America.

25% of each year's annual forage production is consumed by livestock.

\*Insects, rabbits, trampling, etc., consume 25% of each year's forage production.

\*Proper grazing equates to take half, leave half.

\*Rangeland can be stocked at 1 to 1.5 animal units per section for every inch of annual rainfall received.

With these rules of thumb in mind producers should evaluate their range or pastures each spring and determine if you have a weed problem, what and how much forage can you expect and make some sound management decisions for utilization of forage produced. Remember, you are actually selling grass or forage produced rather than pounds of lamb, calves or wool. No grass, no pounds, pure and simple.

Summer youth jobs available

Jobs will be available for area youth again this summer through the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program operated by the Concho Valley Council of Governments. The eight-week program will be operated from June 2, 1997- July 25, 1997 and will allow youth to work up to twenty-five hours per week.

Public agencies and private non-profit organizations are used as work sites.

The purpose of the program is to provide basic work experience to better prepare the youth for the world of work, perform meaningful work in the community, and provide economic resources to enable the youth to return to school in the fall. Counseling and labor market information will be provided to each participant working this summer.

To qualify for the program, youth must be at least 14 years of age at the time of the application and meet low family income guidelines. Applications will be taken on Monday, February 17, 1997 at the Robert Lee High School Library starting at 9:00 am. Students should bring a copy of their Social Security card, birth certificate or resident card, and a utility bill, water bill or phone bill to show proof of address.

For more information contact: Monette Molinar, Director, Employment and Training Programs, (915) 944-9666.

Fast food not always a bargain

"Supersizing" your fast-food order may be a value, but it may not be what you bargained for in terms of your health.

"People are unaware of normal food portions," said Dr. John Foreyt, a professor of medicine and director of the Behavioral Medicine Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "Increasingly, larger-than-normal amounts of food are perceived as normal."

Buying an order of large fries and a 32 ounce cola instead of an order of small fries and a 12 ounce soft drink may cost only a few cents more, but it can double the calories.

Foreyt says despite the added fat, the inexpensive, larger fast-food "combo" is the choice of many busy families.

"Even children are used to ordering larger servings," he said.

The key is knowing how to make sensible food choices.

According to the US Department of Agriculture, which developed the Food Guide Pyramid, a daily diet consisting of no more than 30 percent of calories from fat includes the following amounts of food:

**Bread, cereal, rice and pasta:** 6 to 11 servings. One serving equals 1 slice of bread, tortilla or pancake, a half-cup of cereal, rice or pasta, 2 medium cookies, a half of a bagel, or a hamburger bun.

**Vegetables:** 3 to 5 servings. One serving equals a half-cup of chopped raw or cooked vegetables, scalloped potatoes or potato salad, 1 cup raw leafy vegetables, or 10 french fries.

**Fruit:** 2 to 4 servings. One serving equals 1 piece of fruit or melon wedge, a fourth-cup dried fruit, a half-cup of chopped cooked, or canned fruit, or three-fourths cup of fruit juice.

**Milk, Yogurt and Cheese:** 2 to 3 servings. One serving equals 1 cup milk or yogurt (plain or frozen); one and half cups of ice cream or ice milk, 2 cups of cottage cheese, one and a half ounces of natural cheese, or two ounces of processed cheese.

**Meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, eggs and nuts:** 2 to 3 servings. One serving equals about 3 ounces of cooked lean beef, pork, lamb, veal, poultry or fish - roughly the size of a deck of playing cards, a half-cup of cooked beans, 1 egg, or 2 tablespoons of peanut butter.

**Fats, oils, and sweets:** Use sparingly.

Ordering large portions of food at inexpensive prices can be tempting, Foreyt says, so know your order ahead of time.

"Don't be caught in the drive-thru line wondering what you want," Foreyt said. "You are in control of your diet, not a restaurant."

TX rates high with scholars

Texas universities once again are among the nation's leaders in the enrollment of top college freshmen recognized as National Merit Scholars.

According to figures in the 1996 National Merit Scholarship Corporation's annual report, three Texas schools are among the top five again this year: the University of Texas at Austin, Rice University, and Texas A&M University.

Following number one Harvard, which enrolled 391 new National Merit Scholars this fall, UT-Austin was second with 302, Rice was third with 204. Texas A&M and Stanford University each had 184 new scholars, placing them fourth on the list.

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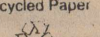


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Cherry Cobbler



(DM)—No one can resist a homemade cobbler straight from the oven. Long on flavor but short on effort, this easy recipe from the **Convection Oven Cookbook** developed by KitchenAid home economists is sure to become a family favorite. The secret to a flaky biscuit topping is to have the fruit filling bubbling hot when you drop the dough onto the filling.

CHERRY COBBLER

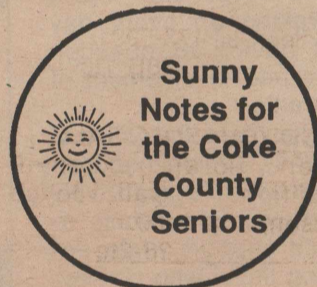
- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1/2 cup all-purpose flour         | 4 cups fresh or frozen unsweetened, pitted, tart red cherries |
| 2 tablespoons granulated sugar    | 1/3 cup water   |
| 3/4 teaspoon baking powder        | 3 tablespoons milk  |
| 1/4 teaspoon salt                 | 1 tablespoon coarse sugar (optional)                          |
| 3 tablespoons butter or margarine |   |
| 3/4 cup granulated sugar          |   |
| 2 tablespoons cornstarch          |   |

For biscuit topping, in a medium bowl stir together flour, the 2 tablespoons granulated sugar, baking powder, and salt. Using a pastry blender, cut in butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Make a well in the center; set aside.

For filling, in a medium saucepan combine the 1/3 cup granulated sugar and cornstarch. Add cherries and water. Cook and stir over medium heat until slightly thickened and bubbly. Reduce heat and keep hot.

Add milk all at once to dry ingredients. Stir just until moistened. Transfer hot filling to a 1 1/2-quart round casserole. Immediately spoon biscuit topping into 4 mounds on top of filling. If desired, sprinkle biscuit topping with coarse sugar.

Convection Bake in a preheated 375°F oven for 18 to 20 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into biscuit topping comes out clean. (Or, standard bake in a preheated 400°F oven about 20 minutes.) Serve warm. Makes 4 servings.



Sunny Notes for the Coke County Seniors

Free income tax assistance

AARP volunteers will be at the Bronte Senior Center Wednesday, February 26, from 1 pm to 5 pm to help you with your income tax return. Call 473-6471 to make an appointment. This service is offered to people of all ages.

Quilters

The Bronte Senior Center will be open for quilting Thursday, February 20, at 9 am. A pot luck lunch will be served at 12 noon. You are cordially invited to attend.

Menu

- Monday, Feb. 17**  
Beef Stew, Sweet Peas, Crackers, Chocolate Pudding
- Wednesday, Feb. 19**  
Fried Fish w/Tartar Sauce, Hominy, Broccoli, Corn Muffins, Bread Pudding w/Raisins
- Friday, Feb. 21**  
Roast Beef w/Brown Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Coleslaw, Carrot Cake

"Winterizing" for exercise

"This the season to bundle up if you are headed outside to exercise.

"People can continue outdoor exercise during the winter months if they take precautions," said David Brennan, an exercise physiologist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

While outdoor exercisers in moderately warm climates may have to make only minor adjustments, people working out in cold-weather states need to make equipment and clothing changes to avoid hypothermia and falls on slippery terrain.

Brennan suggests the following:

\*Dress in layers of clothing, using long-sleeved T-shirts and jackets. As your body warms up, you can shed a layer or two and still be comfortable.

\*Cover your head and ears. Heat easily escapes through the head if the head is not covered.

\*Wear athletic shoes with a jagged tread to get better traction on snow-covered roads and trails.

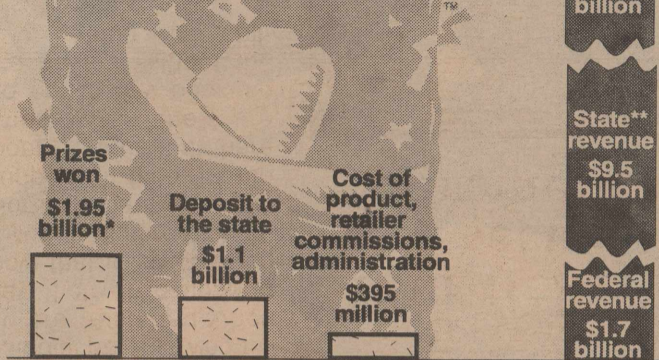
\*Drink plenty of water. Even in cold weather, the body can lose a lot of fluid through sweat.

Texas is the nation's second largest peanut-producing state.

## Keeping an eye on Texas

### Lottery take vs. education funding

The Texas Lottery earned \$1.1 billion for the state from September 1, 1995 to August 31, 1996. Public education funding totaled \$21.8 billion that year.



\*Does not include annuitized value of Lotto Texas jackpots

\*\*State revenue includes Foundation School Program funding, textbook purchases and state-matching contributions to the Teachers' Retirement System

SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas Education Agency and the Texas Lottery Commission.

### It takes both parents to raise a child by Attorney General Dan Morales

The original intent of Title IV-D, the child support enforcement section of the Social Security Act, was to reduce welfare costs of Title IV-A, the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. Studies indicated that mothers and their children needed AFDC mainly because of the absence of financial help from fathers.

Because we are in the business of collecting child support, we focus primarily on those fathers who do not honor their child support obligations. And, unfortunately, those fathers who shoulder their responsibilities and support their children are often overlooked.

When someone hears about a child being raised in a single-parent home, it is almost second nature to believe the child resides with his or her mother. However, this can no longer be assumed. The fact is that many fathers are effective primary caregivers to their children.

But we should not stop there. There are many fathers who do not have custody of their children but still love, care and financially provide for them. There are non-custodial parents who pay child support faithfully and see their children on a regular basis.

My office knows that not all non-custodial parents are bad guys. We empathize with non-custodial parents who tell us they are frustrated when they pay their child support and know that it is not being used for their children's benefit. Some fathers who pay child support on time, month after month, tell us that there are times when they are tempted not to pay because they are paying without the benefit of seeing their children.

Sometimes, at the expense of breaking a court order for visitation and/or custody, custodial parents deny non-custodial parents access to their children. Just like refusing to pay court-ordered child support, this is breaking the law.

Our office has the legal authority take enforcement ac-

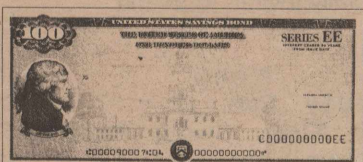
tion against parents for non-payment of child support. However, we do not have the legal authority to enforce visitation and custody, nor can we mandate how the money is to be spent. These issues must be taken up directly with the court.

Even when children are unable to live with their fathers, they still require the emotional and psychological security which fathers provide. Mothers and fathers have different gifts to give their children and one parent can never replace the other.

Having the love of both parents provides a stabilizing environment for children - a necessity in growing up feeling wanted and safe. Every child deserves that start in life. It is parents forming a partnership to raise their children - whether or not they reside in the same household. It is a child waking up every day without having to question the love and involvement of both parents.

Over the years, the Office of the Attorney General has realized the need to aggressively pursue those who refuse to pay child support while encouraging those who do pay. We will continue to be tough, but at the same time we want to acknowledge those who are doing the right thing. We do not want good fathers feeling like unsung heroes. If you are a father who has chosen to be a part of the his children's lives, you are the person we want to acknowledge. You have our admiration and respect.

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