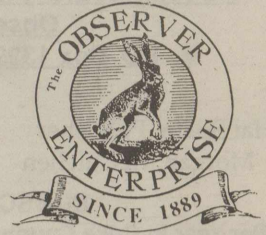


THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

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

Vol. 113, No. 23

Friday, January 5, 2000

Wheat appointed to assume Pct. 2 commissioner's duties

Mr. Bill Wheat has been appointed to serve as Pct. 2 Commissioner and will assume the duties of that office effective January 2, 2001. He will fulfill the unexpired term of Wayne McCutchen, which ends December 31, 2002.

Mr. Wheat lives at 276 Wheat Circle, Blackwell, Texas. He has one daughter, Teri Johnson of Blackwell, and she has two daughters, Jill and Wendy. He has owned and operated a welding and construction company in Odessa for many years which consisted of fabrication of all kinds, roustabout crews, pipeline construction, compressor stations, sewage lift stations, metal buildings, highway components, and many other repair services. He has worked as a shop superintendent for the John Deere dealership in Odessa, overseeing the repair of customer equipment as well as the modification of new and used equipment. He has operated some of this equipment within his construction and designed and built equipment for use in the oil field construction industry. Mr. Wheat moved to Oak

Creek Lake in 1979 and was employed by Carty Beal to help build his lake and ranch property. He has owned and operated a home remodeling and building company in Coke and Nolan Counties.

In Mr. Wheat's summary he stated, "I have successfully owned and operated my own business for 48 years. My experience included overseeing and managing work crews and work sites. I have worked with the public in many capacities and was successful in that area."

According to County Judge Jackie Walker, "There were thirteen people interested in the position vacated by Mr. McCutchen as Pct. 2 Commissioner. This was a difficult choice as each one of the applicants had great qualities and certainly had something to offer the county. Some of the applicants excelled in road maintenance, some in business, and others in the knowledge of the community and expectations of the people."

"Again I encourage you if you are not personally acquainted with Mr. Wheat, take the time to become ac-



Three new County Commissioners were sworn in by Coke County Judge Jackie Walker during a ceremony Tuesday morning, January 2, 2001, at the Courthouse in Robert Lee. They include (from left) Commissioner Precinct 2 Bill Wheat, Commissioner Precinct 1 Paul Burns, and Commissioner Precinct 3 Gaylon Pitcock.

quainted and support him in this endeavor. Let's work together to make Coke County better."

Building, land donated to county

Phillip and Martha Ratliff have donated the El Ranchero building and lots in Bronte to Coke County. This was a very generous action on the part of the Ratliffs. The County will use the property for the Sheriff, Department of Public Safety and Justice of Peace Jack Moore's Offices. This will replace the use of the City Hall facility and the office at Judge Moore's home. County employees and state prisoners will be used to renovate the property. This is a facility that has been needed for some time. This should be an asset to the City of Bronte, not only in keeping the building in use, but by having the presence of the law in such a visible location.

Gospel Singing Sunday

The regular monthly community gospel singing will be held Sunday, January 7 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Central Baptist Church in Bronte. Everyone in the area is invited to come and enjoy this fellowship time together.

CC 4-H place at Odessa stock show

During the Sand Hills Stock Show held over last weekend, Coke County 4-H members placed their animals very well against some tough competition. In the Market Lamb show, Erin Millican placed her medium weight Finewool second, her lightweight Finewool ninth and her light heavy weight lamb ninth. Allison Millican placed her lambs eleventh in the light heavy class, twelfth in the medium weight class and twenty third in the light weight class. In the Market Hereford Steer show, Clay Antilley placed his light weight steer fifth, medium weight thirteenth, and placed fourth overall in steer showmanship. These exhibitors should be commended for their hard work and dedication. Participating in the Market Goat show were Cody Denton, Stacey Denton and Kayla Medrano.

Mohair Council holds annual meeting

The Mohair Council of America will hold its Annual Membership Meeting January 17 & 18, 2001 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in San Angelo. Anyone who raises angora goats or has an inter-

est in the mohair industry is invited and encouraged to participate.

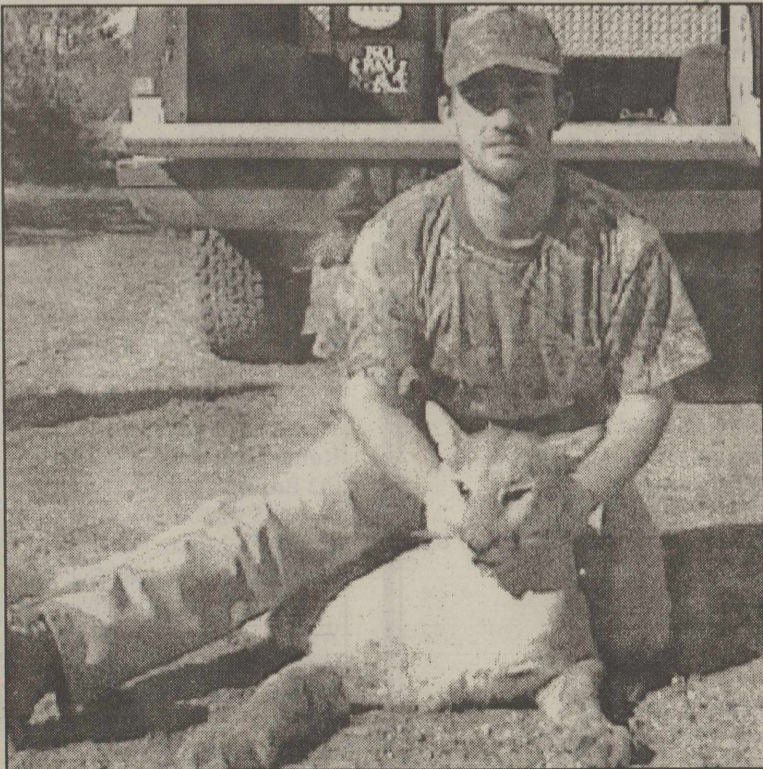
Those planning to attend are asked to call Suzy Mears at the Mohair Council office in order to be included for materials and food. The MCA number is 655-3161 or 1-800-583-3161.

Coke County Livestock Show

The Coke County Livestock Show will be held in the Sterling Lindsey Memorial Exhibit Building in Robert Lee with the Market Lamb and Meat Goat shows on Friday, January 19, beginning at 5:30 pm. The Market Swine show will begin at 8:30 am on Saturday, January 20, followed by the Market Steer show at 11:00 am. The Buyers appreciation barbecue will be served beginning at 12:00 noon, Saturday, with the Premium Sale starting at 2:00 pm. Try and join the youth of Coke County in this worthwhile effort.

Little League meeting slated

All parents of children who play baseball or softball in Coke County are encouraged to attend a Little League meeting Sunday, January 14, at 4 pm at Mitchell Gas in Bronte. Officers will be nominated and elected at this time.



Jacob Wilkinson, 18, of Bedford, Texas, brought down this huge male mountain lion on the Double Wheel Ranch at Tennyson, Texas. Jacob, nephew of ranch owner R. O. Wheeler, called the cat with a mouthcall up to within 20 yards the night of Thursday, December 28th. The mountain lion weighed 110 pounds and stretched 6'6" from tip to tip.

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Per Year Elsewhere in Texas.....\$22.00
Per Year Outside of Texas.....\$25.00

Death Notices

Forbus

Dorothy Lee Forbus, 75, of Grapevine and formerly of Bronte and San Angelo, died Monday, Dec. 18, 2000.

Graveside memorial service was held at 3 pm Thursday, Dec. 21, in Fairview Cemetery, Lee Family Plot.

Survivors include her daughter, Janeye Lou Kiker McCallum of Grapevine; a brother, Royce Lee of Bronte; a sister, Margaret Martin of San Angelo; five grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Carlton

Russell Carlton, 78, of Maverick passed away Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2000, at his home.

Service was held at 10:30 am Thursday, Dec. 28, at Bronte Church of Christ. Burial followed in Home Cemetery. Arrangements were by Shaffer Funeral Home.

Russell is survived by his wife, Annie Lois of the home; one son, Wayne Carlton of Dallas; one daughter, Linda BeVier and her husband Scott, of Arlington; one son, Kit Carlton of Bronte; one granddaughter, a grandson, and two sisters, Mildred Sandlin of Abilene and Frances Loving of Tuscola.

Hester

Wynell Bean Hester, 63, of Big Lake died Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2000, at her residence.

Service was conducted at 10 am Friday, Dec. 29, at the Big Lake Church of Christ. Burial followed in Glen Rest Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband, William "Willie" Hester of Big Lake; two sons, Ray Hester of Rankin and Eric Hester of Big Lake; two daughters, Nan Hester Friend of Longview and Yvonne Hester Conner and husband, Vic, of Robert Lee; 10 grandchildren; a great grandson; her mother, Loree Bean of Haskell; and a sister, Carolyn Bean Sloan of Weatherford.

Leverington

Nora Belle Leverington, 72, of Robert Lee died Friday, December 22, 2000, at her residence.

Service was held at 11:00 am Wednesday, December 27, 2000, at the Robert Lee Baptist Church. Burial followed at 4:00 pm in the Crane County Cemetery. Arrangements were by Shaffer Funeral Home.

She is survived by her husband, Leonard Leverington of Robert Lee; two sons, James P. Leverington of Titusville, FL and Michael Leverington of Odessa, TX; one daughter, Patricia Leek of Hawk Point, MO; two brothers, Joe Sims of Eunice, NM, and Claude Sims of Carlsbad, NM; one sister, Mary Able of Lordsburn, NM; ten grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

The music term a capella comes from the Italian, meaning "from the chapel."

WTRC's 31st annual telethon

Coke County residents have an opportunity between now and midnight on Saturday, January 13 to help West Texas Rehabilitation Center by making a gift to Rehab 2001, the Center's 31st annual telethon.

In Robert Lee, the '64 Study Club is spearheading the local solicitation effort and have arranged for a phone bank to be in operation on telethon night at Ivey Motor Company.

In Bronte, Diane Luckett and Pat Martindale are spearheading the local solicitation effort and have arranged for a phone bank to be in operation on telethon night at the Bronte City Hall.

Rehab friends in the community who won't be able to call in their pledge on January 13 are encouraged to make an advance donation. Checks payable to WTRC may be mailed to either Leta Caston, P.O. Box 461, Robert Lee, Texas 76945 or Diane Luckett, P.O. Box 21, Bronte, Texas 76933.

The five-hour television special will be aired from 7 pm to midnight on 10 Texas stations, including KLST-TV in San Angelo.

Lee Ann Womack, recent winner of two Country Music Association awards, will be the telethon's featured entertainer. Peter Marshall and Charlie Chase will emcee the show, which will also include entertainment by Florence LaRue of the 5th Dimension, rising new talent Jay Michaels and long-time Rehab telethon regulars Bill and Susan Hayes and Anacani.

Significant underwriting for Rehab 2001 has come from AEP-West Texas Utilities and Associated Publishing's Area-Wide Phone Books. "The challenge for the rest of us," said WTRC president Woody Gilliland, "is to build on the momentum started by these two great corporate friends of Rehab."

"The telethon is a critical fun-raiser for Rehab because we count on it to launch the New Year in a good position to meet the needs of more than



Jim and Judith Fullingim will be at the Bronte Methodist Church January 14 at 10:30 am and at the Bronte Health and Rehab Center at 2 pm. If time allows, they will also be at the Coke County Juvenile Justice Center.

17,000 patients who'll look to us for help in the next 12 months," said Gilliland. "That's why we're so grateful to local volunteers staffing telethon phone banks...why every advance gift and every pledge called in during the show are so deeply appreciated."

Local tax help

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander's San Angelo field office will hold a seminar to assist local taxpayers in the San Angelo area on Wednesday, January 17, 2001, from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Comptroller representatives will be on hand from 2:00 pm at the Houston Harte University Center, Room 105, San Angelo, Tx.

The seminar will cover the following topics: tax forms completion, taxability issues, your responsibilities and Comptroller services & publications.

For more information about the seminar, call the San Angelo field office at 915-942-8364.

Those who are unable to attend the San Angelo seminar can call the Comptroller's toll free hotline at 1-800-252-5555 for help. Tax forms and

tax information can also be found on the Comptroller's Web site <www.window.state.tx.us>.

Only four NFL coaches have ever taken more than one franchise to the Super Bowl: Don Shula (Colts, Dolphins), Bill Parcells (Giants, Patriots), Dan Reeves (Broncos, Falcons) and Dick Vermeil (Eagles, Rams).

Churches of Robert Lee

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Emmanuel Pentecostal
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(915) 453-2360

Rev. Ray Aldridge, Pastor
Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

First United Methodist Church
PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne
(915) 453-2417

Rev. Jim Reeves, Pastor
Sun. 10 am Sunday School
11 am Worship

Wed. 7 pm Choir
Northside Church of Christ
PO Box 388 • 9th & Chadbourne

(915) 453-2619 or 453-2270
Tommy Williams, Minister
Services: Sun. 10 am & 6 pm;
Wed. 7 pm

Pecan Baptist
PO Box 542 • 12 W. Sterling City Hwy
(915) 453-4645

Rev. Dale Patterson, Pastor
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
11 am & 7 pm, Worship

Southside Church of Christ
PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston
(915) 453-2176

Frank J. Daniels, Preacher
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
11 am & 6 pm, Worship

Wed. 7 pm, Worship
Robert Lee Baptist Church
PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th

(915) 453-2724
Bro. Waide Messer, Pastor
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
11 am & 7 pm, Worship

Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
601 W. 10th

(915) 365-2687
Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor
Sat. 6 pm

Victory Assembly of God
PO Box 638 • Robert Lee
(915) 453-2208

Rev. Erma Johnson, Pastor
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship

Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting

Free Review

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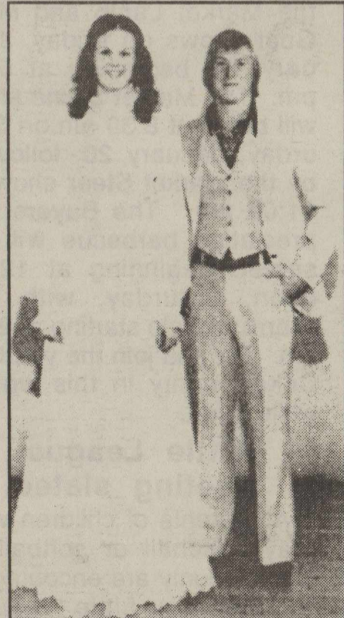


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NICE TO LOOK AT -- Cindy Walker has been named Most Beautiful and Kevin Roe was selected as Most Handsome in Robert Lee High School. Cindy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Walker, Jr. and Kevin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Wayne Roe.



These newly elected county officials were sworn in Tuesday morning, January 2, 2001, at the Courthouse in Robert Lee. They include (from left) Tax Assessor/Collector Kristy Roe, Sheriff Rick Styles, Constable Precinct 2 Russell Johnson, County/District Clerk Mary Grim, and County Attorney Nancy Arthur.

Fort Chadbourne receives grant

The Fort Chadbourne Foundation has received a \$374,000 grant from the Dodge Jones Foundation of Abilene. The grant is designated for the labor involved in the structural stabilization of Fort Chadbourne's historic buildings, the first phase of a four - phase plan. Though the work will begin immediately, additional funding is still needed for materials and operating expenses to complete the project.

"This (grant) enables the Foundation to begin what is needed to stabilize the Fort's ruins," said Garland Richards, owner of Chadbourne Ranch and chairman of the Foundation board. "With the preservation of the buildings, the Fort will become more accessible to visitors."

The three additional phases include a visitor's center/museum, reconstruction of up to four of the buildings at Fort Chadbourne, and the establishment of an endowment.

Fort Chadbourne Foundation is the administrative function of Fort Chadbourne, one of eight historic Forts on the Texas Forts Trail. Opened to the public since 1999, Fort Chadbourne was built as a frontier fort in 1852. Family - owned since the 1870's, the Fort is located eleven miles northeast of Bronte on U.S. Highway 277. Fort Chadbourne has an extensive historical artifact collection - over 18,000 artifacts have been catalogued, including an Indian artifact collection, with many items estimated to be over 6,000 - 9,000 years old.

Rehab 2001 includes live and online auction

Continuing to use technology to the advantages of all the communities it serves, the West Texas Rehabilitation Center unveiled the 2001 version of the Rehab BidSite, part of the Rehab 2001 event.

"The BidSite is live right now. We invite the public to check it out and place an early bid on the nearly 300 items merchants and individuals have contributed to make this year's auction a success," said Pat O'Connor, Director of Information Services for WTRC. The Web address for the BidSite is the same as that for the Center, www.WestTexasRehab.org. From the Home Page, the user can either go into the auction site and view the variety of merchandise and services available, or make a charitable gift for Rehab 2001, as well as discover information about the Center's activities.

New users who would like to use the system only need to go through a simple registration process in order to register as a bidder, O'Connor said. A new feature used this year is that the calls from bidders during the Rehab 2001 telecast will be handled through the facilities and personnel of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, a major sponsor of Rehab 2001 Auction. Additionally, the back-end systems and servers that make the online part of the auction have been beefed up to handle several times the volume of hits that were received last year, O'Connor said.

The auction will run 24 hours a day through midnight

(Central Standard Time) on Saturday, January 13, 2001. Bids will be accepted via telephone from 6:00 pm through midnight on January 13 at the following numbers: (915) 793-4192 or Toll-Free (866) 219-7013. A complete catalog of items available for sale will be published in the Abilene Reporter-News and the San Angelo Standard Times on Saturday, January 13, 2001.

Wink and Stocks exchange vows

On December 14, 2000, Jason Wink and Mattie Stocks were married at the Stocks home in Marlin, Texas. With the home decorated for the season, the outdoor ceremony took place on a cold evening with family in attendance. The Christmas lights, warm coats and Jason in a Santa hat, made the wedding memorable. Anthony Wink served as his brother's best man and Cassidy Wink, Jason's sister, stood with Mattie as her maid of honor.

Mattie is the daughter of Willie and Eartha Stocks of Marlin, Texas. Jason is the son of Robert and Marsha Wink of Robert Lee. A 1990 Robert Lee High School graduate, he is a 1994 Texas Tech graduate, and is employed by Sedeco in Marlin, Texas. He and Mattie honeymooned in Wimberly and will make their home in Chilton, Texas.

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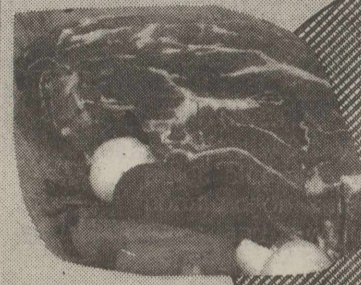


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10 Lb. Bag .89

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Chicken of the Sea Tuna

3 6 oz. cans / \$1



Selected Varieties

Folgers Coffee

24-39 oz. can

\$4.99



Corn Canola, Puritan Canola, Vegetable or Best Blend

Crisco Oil

48 oz. bottle

\$1.69



Selected Varieties

Charmin Bath Tissue or Bounty Paper Towels

6 or 24 Ct. Pkg.

\$5.99



Bronte School News

Bronte Longhorn tournament

Bronte started out victorious by winning against Cornerstone Christian by a score of 54-38. Bronte scoring as follows: Brandon Gibbs 13 points, 6 rebounds; Henry White 4 points, 6 rebounds; Zeb Speary 6 points, 7 rebounds, 5 assists; Ryan McCorkle 2 points; Josh Schoenfield 6 points, 4 assists; Tim Green 3 points, 6 rebounds; Steve Eldred 7 points; Charlie Bettis 6 points; Anthony Gibbs 3 steals, 4 assists; and Clayton Acker 7 points.

The second game for the Longhorns went even better with a win against Eden by a score of 63-31. Bronte scoring as follows: Brandon Gibbs 18 points, 8 rebounds; Henry White 3 points, 8 rebounds; Zeb Speary 8 points, 4 assists, 3 steals; Ryan McCorkle 2 points, 5 rebounds; and Josh Schoenfield 11 points.

In the championship game, of the tournament, Bronte lost a heartbreaker to Irion County by a score of 34-32. Bronte scoring as follows: Brandon Gibbs 11 points, 8 rebounds; Henry White 8 points, 5 rebounds; Zeb Speary 2 points, 4 assists, 4 steals; Ryan McCorkle 5 points, 6 rebounds, 3 steals; and Steve Eldred 6 points.

Bronte JV boys basketball

The Bronte JV boys played Garden City on Tuesday, December 12th. The Bronte boys made it a close game but lost by a score of 41-37. Bronte scoring was as follows: BJ Hall 11; Joel Webb 14; Garrett Fiveash 2; Scott Snyder 7, and Casey McKee 3.

200,000 enrolled in CHIP

7 year-old Zachary Lopez and his 16 year-old sister Talia of Austin both suffered severe headache last summer. For the first time in their lives their mother, Ida Lopez didn't hesitate to call a doctor because now that she and her husband enrolled their children in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in Texas, she can afford the expense.

"The CHIP program has given me a great peace of mind," said Ida Lopez, a receptionist at an Austin based cable manufacturer. "Both my husband and I work, but our employers can't afford to offer health insurance to our children, but for just \$18 dollars a month CHIP covered the cost of my children's doctor's visits - even to the eye doctor. Now they have eye glasses, their headaches are gone, they can see clearly and they are studying hard in school."

Ida Lopez and her family represent one of the thousands of Texas families who have gained "peace of mind" since they enrolled in CHIP. Program officials are extremely pleased with the rate of enrollment and report that 200,000 Texas children have enrolled since the program began last May. These numbers mean Texas has outpaced other comparable states in the initial months.

Today program leaders are announcing new initiatives to reach even more Texas families who may not be aware that they qualify for the program. These initiatives include a new multi-million dollar statewide advertising campaign, local community-based marketing initiatives and increased outreach involving business and community leaders.

CHIP was launched nine months ago with federal funds and money from the tobacco lawsuit settlement as a part of the TexCare Partnership, Texas' umbrella children's health insurance initiative that also includes Medicaid and the Texas Healthy Kids Cor-

poration. CHIP offers low-cost insurance to low-to-moderate income families.

Premiums are \$18 a month or less, depending on a family's size and income. For example, a family of four can make up to \$34,000 - or more (possibly up to \$38,000) if they have child-care or other qualified expenses - and still qualify for CHIP.

"In less than a year, CHIP has made it possible for 200,000 children to visit the doctor when they're sick without their parents worrying about what it's going to cost," said Don Gilbert, Texas Health and Human Service Commissioner. "Still, there are thousands more families in Texas who are eligible to take advantage of this opportunity and may not know it. That's why we're taking some new steps."

Over the next three months, TexCare Partnership is launching:

*** An intensive, statewide TV and radio campaign.**

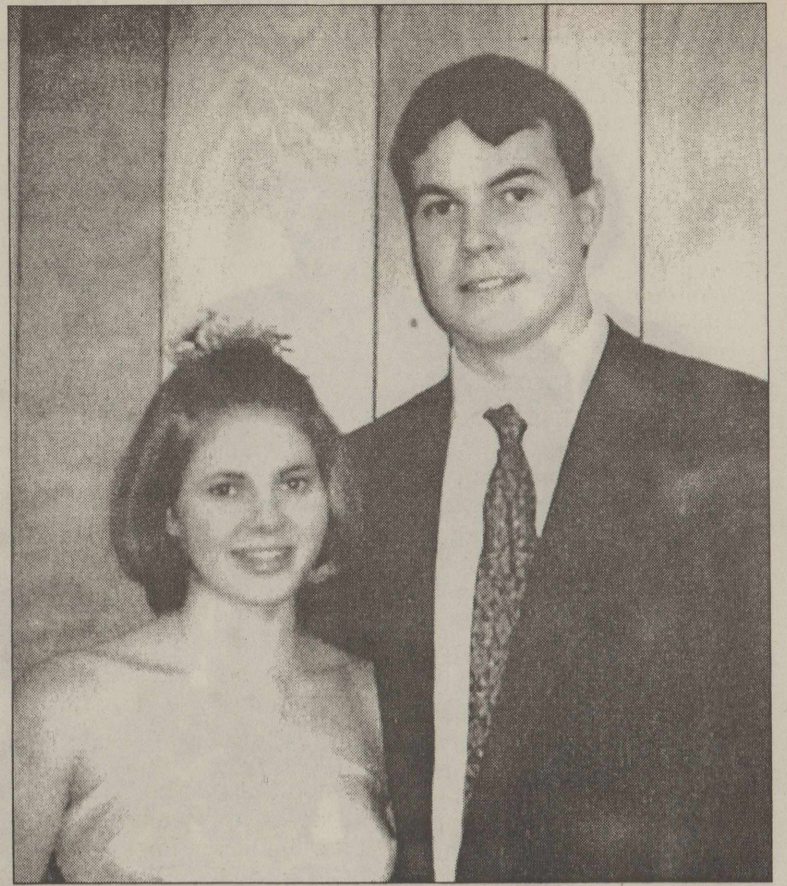
Approximately \$3 million will buy TV and radio advertisements to start in mid-January and run every other week through the end of August. TV and radio scripts are available upon request.

*** Locally produced and directed community-based marketing initiatives.**

\$1 million dollars is being allocated statewide to approximately 10 community-based organizations (CBOs) such as the United Way of San Antonio, Catholic Charities and county health departments. The state currently contracts with over 50 non-profit groups that have grassroots networks in place to help get the word out to families who may qualify for CHIP.

*** An aggressive campaign to involve more businesses in promoting community awareness about the TexCare Partnership.**

TexCare Partnership has begun a corporate development effort which has already secured agreements from Eller Media and Reagan National Advertising for free billboard space around the state and is working to expand that collaboration with the state's outdoor advertising industry. In addition, the Aetna Foundation has agreed to purchase needed items such as portable copiers for outreach workers and push cards with program information for distribution by community organizations.



Mr. and Mrs. Cody Harris

*** A statewide print advertising campaign in community papers.**

This initiative is focusing on African-American, Spanish language and Asian community papers statewide. It will start in January, with a total of six insertions (one ad a month for six months.)

*** A statewide billboard campaign.**

This campaign is a result of the corporate development effort above. It relies on donated space. The state will pay for printing and posting fees. It will last 4-8 weeks.

CHIP offers a full range of health insurance coverage, including regular checkups, immunizations, prescription drugs, eyeglasses, lab tests, X-rays, hospital visits, dental care and mental health care, from a broad choice of doctors.

Families interested in CHIP or other TexCare Partnership insurance options for their children may call 1-800-647-6558 toll free to ask questions or start the application process over the phone. They may also visit the program and download an application on the Web at www.texcarepartnership.com.

The word cacao, beans used to make chocolate, has been misspelled over the years and eventually became known as cocoa beans.

Sedden and Harris exchange vows

Tamara Sedden and Cody Harris were married December 30, 2000, at the Central Baptist Church in Bronte. Reverend Morris Johnson officiated the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Marty and Ronda Sedden of Bronte. The bridegroom is the son of Mike and Debbie Harris of Tennyson.

The bride is a 2000 graduate of Bronte High School and is attending Angelo State University.

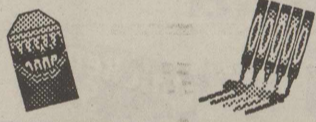
The bridegroom is a 1999 graduate of Bronte High School and is attending New Mexico Junior College and is employed by Toliver Brothers in Ballinger.

The couple will live in Bronte.

Beef muscle profiling will increase usage

Understanding the characteristics of different muscles in the beef carcass could lead to higher profitability for many cuts, the \$1 beef checkoff program reports. A recent national study showed that values of the chuck and round can increase if the industry better understands muscle characteristics. The chuck and round represent about 67% of the beef carcass by volume, but less than 50% by value.

SCHOOL MENU



Breakfast

Monday, Jan. 08

Breakfast burrito, apple sauce, biscuit, milk

Tuesday, Jan. 09

Sausage, grape juice, pancake, milk

Wednesday, Jan. 10

Scrambled eggs, apple juice, toast, milk

Thursday, Jan. 11

Pancake & sausage on a stick, sliced peaches, cinnamon toast, milk

Friday, Jan. 12

Cereal, mixed fruit, biscuit, milk

Lunch

Monday, Jan. 09

Chicken nuggets with gravy, creamed potatoes, green beans, rolls, milk, banana pudding

Tuesday, Jan. 10

Soft tacos with cheese, refried beans, lettuce & tomato, Spanish rice, flour tortilla, milk, pink panther cake

Wednesday, Jan. 11

Cheeseburgers, French fries, lettuce, tomato, pickle, bun, milk, rice krispie bars

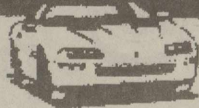
Thursday, Jan. 12

Spud day - chili & cheese, potato (baked) steamed broccoli, sliced peaches, crackers, milk

Friday, Jan. 13

Spaghetti with meat sauce, tossed salad, corn on the cob, bread sticks, milk, sugar cookies

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RL girls varsity basketball

On December 20, Robert Lee played Irion County and won by a score of 42-25. Robert Lee scoring was as follows: Jennifer Alexander 4; Kizre Matthews 2; Shanna Wojtek 6; Amber Freeman 2; Whitney Millican 10; Jodee Helwig 6; Dixie Simpson 2, and Deshira Dickey 10.

Lady Steers win championship

The Lady Steers won their third tournament in a row as they brought home the championship from the Sterling City Tournament (Dec. 28-30). In the opening round the Lady Steers defeated Water Valley 74-40. Jodee Helwig and Deshira Dickey led the Lady Steers in scoring with 21 and 20 points respectively. Other scoring included: Alexander 2; Matthews 3; Wojtek 5; Freeman 8; Millican 2; Rachelle Mills 2; Simpson 6; and Bobbie Sparks 4.

In the semifinal game the Lady Steers ran away from the host team, Sterling City, 69-31. The Lady Steers rained in 6 three pointers as Matthews hit on 3 of 5 three point attempts and finished with 11 points. Wojtek hit on 2 of 5 three points for 6 points. Millican hit 1 three pointer and finished with 7 points. Although the Lady Steers were hot from the 3 point stripe, it was Dickey who did the most damage from the inside with 27 points, connecting on 11 of 14 from the field and 5 of 7 free throws. Other scoring included: Alexander 2; Freeman 2; Helwig 6; and Simpson 8.

In the Championship game, the Lady Steers faced an old rival that defeated the Lady Steers three times in the '99-'00 season. It was payback time as the Lady Steers were able to take a 52-40 win. Dickey once again led the

scoring with 18; Helwig had 12; Millican had 10; Simpson, Wojtek & Matthews had 4 each.

Helwig was chosen as the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Dickey and Matthews were selected to the All-Tournament Team.

RLVFD news

by Marian Thompson
Secretary

The fire department held its first meeting of the new year on January 2nd. President Larry Martin presided and there were 12 members present. The minutes were approved as read and the treasury report was discussed.

Chief Rick Drennan reported that Wayland Drennan is loaning the department a large saw that will cut through most any material. He also reported that he had ordered decals, tools and equipment for the new pumper truck.

Dispatcher Bud Thompson gave the monthly report. There were 2 fire calls in December. The first call was of a hot water heater that burst and steam was coming from the house. The second call was a mutual aid call and no fire was found. These two calls used 12 man hours, 1/4 truck miles, 1/4 truck hours with 16 men responded.

The secretary reviewed the annual report. There were 43 fire calls in 2000; 9 structure, 8 grass, 7 MVA; 21 other calls included 8 mutual aid in Coke County, 3 mutual aid for Tom Green County; 8 smoke reports; 1 vehicle fire, 1 bees call; 4 calls were standby for Bronte; 4 false alarm calls; 6 smoke reports that were controlled burns. The calls summed up were 10 for the city, 30 for Coke County and 3 for Tom Green County. These calls resulted in 245 men responding, putting in a total of 385 man hours. Other drills and activities totaled 1,085 man hours.

The group returned to the station to work on the equipment.

The next meeting will be on January 15th.

Rehab announces line-up of performers

Woody Gilliland, Rehab Center president, has announced the line-up of performers for the 31st annual telethon to benefit the Center. Rehab 2001 is set for January 13, 2001, and will be carried by television stations in twelve markets in Texas and Oklahoma.

Gilliland stated that this year's telethon reflects the Center's commitment to bring a fresh, new look to the show. Gilliland stated, "We have made every effort to add well-known contemporary performers to our cast of regulars." This year's show will feature one of the top female vocalists in country music and one of the best known country music talk show hosts in the business.

Lee Ann Womack, whose song "I Hope You Dance", garnered the Country Music Association's coveted "Single of the Year" honor this year, will headline the entertainers for Rehab 2001. The talented singer is a Grammy, CMA, and ACM-nominated vocalist. Womack grew up in Jacksonville, Texas, and attended South Plains College in Levelland.

Also appearing for the first time on this year's telethon is one of the most respected talk show hosts in the country music genre, Charlie Chase. His career has spanned more than three decades, and he is credited with launching the careers of a number of today's country music's superstars. He is best known for teaming with Lorianne Crook for The Nashville Network's long running "Crook and Chase". He also is a host for "Country Countdown", a nationally syndicated radio show carried

by nearly 500 radio stations nationwide.

Also joining this year's talent line-up for the first time are the Geezinslaws and Jay Michaels and his band, Company. They will join regular performers Peter Marshall, Anacani, Bill and Susan Hayes, Florence LaRue, Brad Maule, and the Cooper Fiddlers. Nine-year-old Sidney Simpson of Abilene will also appear center stage during the show.

The five-hour television special will be aired from 7 pm to midnight on 10 Texas stations, including KLST-TV in San Angelo.

College bound students can apply on line

During the holiday break, high school students planning to attend college next fall can use the Internet to begin the application process. ACT's website, at www.act.org, provides valuable information and links to help students search for colleges, take virtual campus tours and apply to hundreds of colleges on line.

The application deadlines for some colleges and universities fall in early January. Getting information and filling out forms can be a time con-

suming task for students and their families. Electronic application can speed up the process.

ACT's website contains a Financial Aid Need Estimator, which uses the federal financial aid formula to estimate what the student's family may be expected to contribute for costs at specific colleges. January is a good time to file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form for the fall semester.

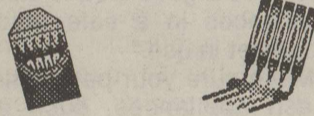
The website also provides useful information regarding the ACT college entrance exam, including online registration, practice questions and the opportunity to order test preparation materials. ACT scores are used by virtually all four-year colleges and universities in the nation. ACT scores are accepted by all Ivy League schools.

The next ACT test will be given nationwide on February 10, 2000. The registration deadline is January 5, with a late deadline of January 19. An additional fee is required for late registrations.

Be not afraid of life. Believe that life is worth living, and your belief will help create the fact.

William James

SCHOOL MENU



Breakfast

- Monday, Jan. 08**
Orange juice, cinnamon roll, cereal, milk
- Tuesday, Jan. 09**
Orange juice, blueberry pancake & sausage on stick, syrup, cereal, milk
- Wednesday, Jan. 10**
Orange juice, French toast, sausage, cereal, milk
- Thursday, Jan. 11**
Orange juice, muffins, cereal, milk
- Friday, Jan. 12**
Orange juice, biscuit, sausage, cereal, milk

Lunch

- Monday, Jan. 08**
Frito pie/crackers, corn, potato wedges, pears, milk
- Tuesday, Jan. 09**
Salisbury steak, creamed potatoes, English peas, rolls, peaches, milk
- Wednesday, Jan. 10**
Chicken spaghetti, salad, carrots, rolls, pineapple, milk
- Thursday, Jan. 11**
Lasagna, green beans, salad, white bread, apple-sauce, milk
- Friday, Jan. 12**
Hot dog w/chili & cheese, potato patty, spliced apples, ice cream, milk

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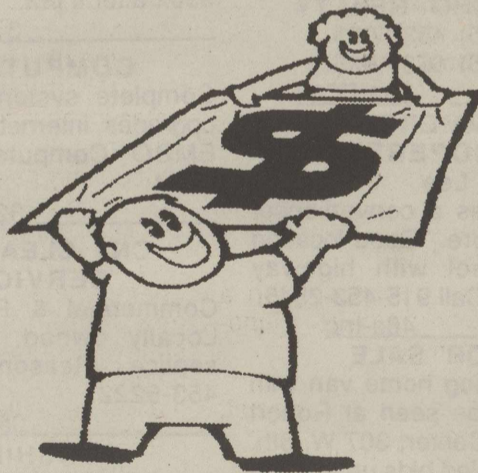
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23a-EOW

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46a-tnc

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23a-2tc

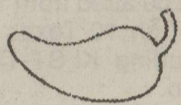
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13a-tnc

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29a-EOW

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14b-tnc

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45b-tnc

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34b-tnc

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23b-2tc

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23b-1tc

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36b-tnc

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23b-1tp

Financial Focus: Diversification can be a lifesaver

by the financial advisors at EdwardJones. Edward Noble was one of those people who understood that variety is the spice of life. In 1913, he approached Clarence Crane, the inventor of the peppermint Life Saver, with the idea of producing the candy in a variety of flavors. Crane didn't want any part of this plan, so he sold Noble all rights to the candy for \$2,900.

Today, Life Savers is a billion-dollar business, and the reason Noble became owner of it -- and not Crane -- was because he knew the value of diversification. He didn't base his success on the sales of just one flavor of candy. He knew that by offering a variety of flavors, he could appeal to more people. At the same time, he protected his business should any one flavor fall from grace with the public. Like Edward Noble, smart

investors understand the value of variety. They know that variety is the foundation of a good investment plan. Whether you call it diversification, asset allocation, or simply "not putting all your eggs in one basket," the benefits of spreading your dollars among a variety of investments cannot be overstated.

One of the main benefits of choosing a variety of investments is that you have some protection should one of those investments experience a downturn. No single investment performs well under all conditions. In fact, different types of investments sometimes go in opposite directions. For example, when the stock market declines, bonds generally perform well and vice versa. Owning both types of investments will benefit you in nearly any economic environment.

Diversification also protects against loss of purchasing power. Having all your money in fixed-income investments, such as bonds and CDs, will not allow you to keep up with inflation. Why is this important? Consider for a moment what has happened to the price of bread over the past 50 years.

In 1950, \$1 would buy nearly five loaves of bread (22 cents per loaf.) In 1970, \$1 would buy three loaves of bread (33 cents per loaf.) In 1990, \$1 would buy one loaf of bread (89 cents per loaf.) In 2000, \$1 will not even buy one loaf of many brands of bread.

So, although you usually know exactly how much a fixed-income investment will return at maturity, what you don't know is how much purchasing power that money will retain. Placing a portion of your assets in growth investments, however, has historically allowed you to outpace inflation.

Another benefit of diversification is that it offers the potential for better returns. Consider the example of two individuals, each with \$10,000 bonds paying 5.25 percent. Investor A uses the entire amount to purchase US government bonds paying 5.25 percent. Twenty-five years later, his investment is worth more than \$54,000.

Investor B, however, decides to spread his nest egg among five different types of investments. The first three turn out to be good choices. He places \$2,000 in an international growth fund that averages a 15 percent annual return, \$2,000 in a growth-and-income fund that averages 10 percent annually, and \$2,000 in a tax-free municipal bond paying 5 percent.

His other two investments are not as successful. One breaks even, and the other is completely lost. How badly do these two investments hurt his return? At the end of 25 years, Investor B has more than \$96,000, roughly 44 percent more than Investor A.

This example illustrates the importance of diversifying by type of investment. Investor B's portfolio included a growth investment, a growth-and-income investment and a fixed-income investment. It's also important to choose a variety of investments within each category.

and growth-and-income investments, such as stocks and stock mutual funds, many investors concentrate too much of their money in companies that are familiar, such as consumer goods and utilities. Others lean too heavily on what's hot, like technology stock. Stocks and stock mutual funds should represent a variety of companies and industries. Diversifying this way could protect you from negative events in any one company or industry.

You can also diversify the fixed-income portion of your portfolio. These investments could include bonds with short, intermediate, and long-term maturities. This practice, called laddering maturities, protects you against interest rate fluctuations. When interest rates fall, you have money invested at higher rates. When interest rates rise, you have money available to invest at those higher rates.

The specific mix of investments that's right for you depends on your needs for safety and return. Ask a professional to review your investments to make sure they're adequately diversified. The few minutes you spend evaluating your portfolio can be a priceless investment. As Edward Noble discovered, diversification can be a lifesaver.

Pet talk

Just like humans, your pet needs a fire protection plan.

You can "fireproof" your pets and other animals in a variety of ways, says Dr. Dawn Booth of Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Here are some tips to safeguard your pet against danger.

Make sure appliances are unplugged if not being used. "Many dogs like to chew on electrical cords, and this can either short out and start a fire or injure the dog," says Boothe. "Rabbits are also fond of chewing on cords. If you have a pet that likes to chew, it's a good idea to store appliances in a safe place when not in use."

Make sure your pet cannot reach appliances, such as irons or hair dryers when in use. "Cats sometimes like to jump on top of ironing boards and if the iron is on, it can be tipped over and may start a fire," says Boothe. "Always unplug appliances that produce heat - such as irons or hair dryers - if a pet is in the house."

Never leave a burning candle unattended in a house with a pet. "This is asking for trouble," Booth believes. "Always extinguish a candle if you leave your house with your pet is inside."

Watch those barbecue grills. "When finished grilling food outside, people will often leave the grill unattended with the coals still very hot, capable of starting a fire quickly. Either make sure that pets cannot get near the grill or make sure all coals have cooled down," Booth notes.

It's a myth that animals don't like fire. "You cannot assume animals don't like fire," Booth adds. "In fact, many animals like the warmth, and many domesticated animals such as dogs and cats like to be near heat."

For example, with growth

Dilly of a lawsuit

by Jon Opelt

It's America's latest fast-food riddle: Q: When does a pickle equal \$125,000? A: When it's the basis of a high-priced lawsuit.

That's right. A pickle. Just the latest in a string of dangerous products that personal injury lawyers are saving us from, while liberating huge sums of money from unsuspecting businesses.

A Tennessee woman and her husband have filed a \$125,000 lawsuit claiming a hot pickle from a McDonald's hamburger burned her chin.

Veronica Martin of Knoxville is seeking \$110,000 as payment for medical bills, lost wages, and the physical and mental pain and anguish she allegedly has suffered. Her husband Darrin wants an additional \$15,000 because "he has been deprived of the services and consortium of his wife."

In other words, the resulting abrasion from the hot pickle apparently sent their love life into a deep freeze. A trial date has been set for May 9th.

Asked if she was filing a frivolous lawsuit, the Martin's attorney replied, "Not at all. No hesitation."

Well, maybe some hesitation.

The hamburger incident happened a year ago. The lawyer just got around to filing the lawsuit. No hesitation? How long does it take to know if you've been injured?

Part of the pickle, if you'll pardon the pun, is that there are few barriers to filing frivolous lawsuits and virtually no consequences to filing groundless lawsuits.

In court papers filed earlier this month McDonald's has asked that the case be dismissed and that the Martins

pay McDonald's legal costs.

Former U.S. Senator and presidential candidate George McGovern has said that a quarter of all civil lawsuits filed in the United States are either frivolous or fraudulent.

Yet, lawyers are rarely sanctioned for burdening the courts with such suits. Surveys repeatedly show the public wants judges to crack down on frivolous lawsuits by tossing them out of court and fining the lawyers who file them. Yet that rarely happens. In the most frivolous of cases, judges either dismiss the suit or force the opposing lawyer to win the case before a jury and then file a counterclaim.

Faced with a frivolous lawsuit, most defendants will settle for nuisance value or fight to have the case dismissed rather than continue to plow money into legal fees with the scant hope of ever recovering a dime. Even some prominent plaintiffs' lawyers agree that we need stronger medicine to fight junk lawsuits.

For McDonald's, this has to be getting pretty old.

A couple of years ago a man sued McDonald's for injuries he sustained in an auto accident with one of their customers.

The accident victim claimed that the customer who hit him did so after spilling the contents of his recently purchased chocolate milk shake onto his lap while reaching over for McDonald's fries.

His attorney alleged the fast-food chain sold the customer shake and fries knowing he would consume them while driving, and was derelict for failing to formally warn him not to eat and drive at the same time.

While the court concluded McDonald's was not at fault, it refused the chain's request that the plaintiff pay its attorney fees. The judge noted that the plaintiffs' attorney was "creative, imaginative and shouldn't be penalized for that."

This case was in the court system for three years, underwent appellate review and cost McDonald's over \$10,000.00. Ultimately, it was McDonald's patrons who were penalized.

People are angrier about frivolous lawsuits than politicians may think. Our web site -www.calahouston.org - received more than 83,000 hits the first two days after the hot pickle lawsuit story broke.

It's time for meaningful reform. We may not be able to legislate common sense, but we can certainly stop rewarding the ridiculous.

In the meantime, McDonald's best option may be to hold the pickles.

Jon Opelt is director of the Houston-based legal watchdog group, Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse. Readers may write him at: 2500 City West Blvd. Ste. 300, Houston, TX 77042. Call him at: (713) 267-2302.



Five year old Stetsen Emfinger of Tennyson, Texas, set quite a standard for his future hunts by taking this 4 1/2 year old 7 point (23" spread) buck as his first deer. The deer was killed on the Double Wheel Ranch.

Promises, promises

After the holiday leftovers are gone, family members have returned to their homes and the beginning of a new year looms large, the rush to make resolutions begins. But making those New Year's resolutions should include realistic expectations and a plan that helps people reach their goals.

Most people make resolutions because they want to change something about themselves that they don't like, believes Dr. Don Rosen, director of the Counseling Center at Texas Woman's University.

"Any time is a good time for a person to make changes in his or her life. The new year

often is convenient and makes a good starting point," says Rosen. "But making those resolutions and keeping them is one of the most difficult tasks for anyone to manage at the beginning of the new year. People also don't tend to think out their resolutions very well; instead, they tend to make impulsive decisions and rash goals. More than 60 percent of all resolutions are abandoned in the first quarter of the new year."

Resolutions also are difficult to keep if they are unrealistic.

"People often expect instantaneous results. Changes does not happen in a week, but in small increments over a period of time. Many folks don't realize this," explains Rosen. And keeping resolutions also is difficult because people fail to plan steps to help themselves achieve their goals successfully.

"Planning a process to achieve the resolution is critical," adds the TWU psychologist.

Rosen suggests that resolution-makers follow these steps:

- * Assess yourself. Look at your skills and use them to establish steps toward setting goals.

- * Select resolutions based on small increments of achievement - have subgoals within goals.

- * Keep a daily or weekly ledger or diary of your progress to help monitor behavior.

- * Make a written contract with yourself, specifying the details of your steps.

- * Reward yourself, but not excessively, with material items. Graciously accept and enjoy compliments and positive feedback from peers.

- * Be patient with yourself. Often, people are their own worst critics. If you revert to your old habits and don't reach your goal:

- * Admit and analyze your mistakes, and continue with the steps. Don't be overwhelmed by small setbacks.

- * Seek help from others or those who are trying to accomplish the same thing.

- * Join a support group or enlist the help of friends.

For more information, call Rosen at (940) 898-3801.

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2001 Weight Watchers resolutions

In an effort to better equip Americans concerned with the nation's staggering obesity rate, Weight Watchers Southwest is providing a "Weight-Loss Readiness Quiz" to encourage dieters to focus more on their personal attitudes regarding food and weight loss as millions of people embark on the annual ritual of New Year's weight-loss resolutions.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the prevalence of obesity climbed 6 percent last year, affecting all regions of the nation and nearly all demographic groups. Unfortunately, despite varying backgrounds, personalities, body types and physical abilities, many people attack weight loss with the same "cookie-cutter" approach.

As more and more research becomes available in the fight against weight gain, Weight Watchers remains on the cusp in the evolution of weight loss. At the annual meeting of the American Dietetic Association, authors of a new study reported that a high percentage of dieters using behavior-based programs have been able to not only lose weight, but keep it off. By developing self-nurturing skills and setting effective limits, individuals are more likely to determine why they are seeking food and what consequences exist for eating in excess. Supporting the findings of this study, Weight Watchers focuses on an individual's lifestyle and how to adjust poor eating behaviors.

The "Weight Loss Readiness Quiz" from Weight Watchers is the first step in determining individuals' personal attitudes toward weight loss, allowing them to customize their weight loss program.

"Custom-fitting your weight-loss regimen to meet your lifestyle is an essential component to long-term weight-loss success," said Anne Churchill, spokesperson for Weight Watchers Southwest. "Successful weight loss comes down to feeling satisfied as you make changes in the way you eat and live. That calls for an approach to weight loss that takes into account your relationship with food."

In an attempt to personalize the weight loss struggle, in January Weight Watchers is introducing a whole new strategy for losing weight through its Winning Points system. With 97 million Americans tipping the scales in either the overweight or obese range, a considerable number of these people will look to the New Year as a motivation to trim unwanted pounds. Weight Watchers Winning Points takes the POINTS Weight-Loss System to a whole new level encouraging individuals to learn their "dieting personality profile" - a composite of who they are and how they live based on their particular habits and behaviors regarding food, right down to what, and when, they like to eat.

To learn more about Weight Watchers, visit www.weightwatchers.com or

for the closest Weight Watchers meeting place and a schedule of meetings in your area, call 1-800-651-6000.

Weight Watchers' Quiz

1) If you've tried to lose weight before, how certain are you this time that you will lose weight for good? 1) Not at all certain 2) Somewhat certain 3) Quite certain 4) Extremely certain

2) Consider the current challenges in your life (the stress of being a working mother, a family sickness, a new job, etc). In light of these challenges, to what extent can you commit to major lifestyle changes? 1) Cannot commit 2) Uncertain 3) Can commit somewhat 4) Can commit fully

3) Think about why you want to lose weight (for health reasons, to make your family happy, to look good for a class reunion, etc). How certain are you that this motivation will keep the weight off for the rest of your life? 1) Not at all certain 2) Somewhat certain 3) Very certain

4) How much do you want to change your behaviors of overeating and under-exercising? 1) Not at all 2) A little 3) A good deal 4) Very much

5) If making healthy lifestyle changes is sometimes difficult or uncomfortable, how willing are you to stick with the changes? 1) Not at all willing 2) Somewhat willing 3) Very willing 4) Extremely willing

Quiz scoring

Add up answers to get your total score. If you scored: **5-12:** Rethink whether this is really the best time to begin a weight-loss regime. If you lack commitment or have unrealistic expectations, you may be setting yourself up for failure. Consider altering your goals and how you plan to fulfill them. Then reassess your attitude in a few weeks. Be sure that your goals are stated in the positive, within your control, and that they fit with your lifestyle. **13-16:** You are on the brink of being mentally ready to make some permanent lifestyle changes. Consider how you can dispel the last of your doubts before you embark on a plan. Sometimes it's simply a matter of thinking about what resources you would need to feel more certain. For example, with question #5, if you're only somewhat willing to make lifestyle changes having a buddy system might help you overcome your resistance. **17-19:** You have a healthy mindset. The time to implement changes is now.

Getting back on track after the holidays

Did you spend more than



you had anticipated this holiday season? You're probably not alone. But rest assured, reality will soon set in when you receive your first bill. For many, frenzied holiday spending has pushed them into a serious and troublesome financial situation, or has aggravated an existing debt.

Unfortunately, this story is all too familiar. In some circles holiday debt has become as much of the holiday tradition as Ole Saint Nick himself. Being part of this trend is not wise, especially if you don't have enough money to pay for both current living expenses and yesterday's indulgences.

To keep from carrying this debt through the same time next year, The Independent Bankers Association of Texas recommends these guidelines to get back on track:

* Make a plan to pay off debt. Create a budget and stick to it.

* If you are having problems making payments, contact creditors immediately about alternative, more manageable plans:

* Stop charging. Pay off

balances each month or if debt has accumulated, pay more than the minimum due.

* Use your debit card instead of your credit cards for purchases. By deducting money straight from your bank account you bypass the chance of racking up a big balance on your card.

* Make savings a priority and put those saved dollars toward reducing your debt. As little as \$5 a month adds up.

* Get rid of the "buy now, pay later" attitude.

* Keep records of all purchases and payments.

* Reliable credit counselors can assist you at little to no cost. Be aware of scams that charge big fees for services you can do on your own.

Provided as a public service by the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT)

The story of COLAs

by Fredi Franki

Social Security Manager

Most people are aware that there are annual increases in Social Security benefits to offset the effects of inflation on fixed incomes. These increases, known as cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) are such an accepted feature of the program that it is difficult

to imagine Social Security without them. But, in fact, when Ida May Fuller received the first \$22.54 benefit payment ever paid in January of 1940, this was the amount she could expect to receive for life.

It was not until the 1950 Amendments that Congress legislated the first COLA-a 77 percent increase! From that point on, benefits were increased only when Congress enacted special legislation.

In 1972, the law was changed to provide, beginning in 1975, for automatic annual COLAs based on the annual increase in consumer prices. The 1975-82 COLAs were effective with Social Security benefits payable for June of each of those years; thereafter, COLAs have been effective with benefits payable for December.

Automatic COLAs have ranged from a low of 1.3 to a high of 14.3. The current COLA, 3.5 percent, will be effective with benefits payable for December 2000.

No longer do beneficiaries have to await a special act of Congress to receive a benefit increase and no longer does inflation drain value from Social Security benefits.

DON'T TALK TO STRANGERS

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