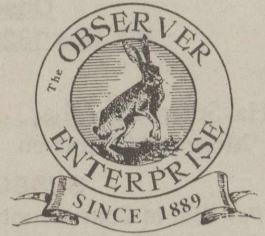


THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE



Serving Coke County

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

Vol. 113, No. 27

Friday, February 2, 2001

Lights at Bryan's Barn more spectacular than ever before

Hundreds of families from Texas as well as other states have established a visit to Bryan's Barn near Robert Lee as a tradition during December. In fact, numerous small children truly believe that that's where Santa lives!

Visitors unanimously agreed that the 2000 show was the most beautiful and spectacular of the ten years the Bryan family (and friends) have been arranging the displays on the six acres of Bryan property. Most previous Decembers have had a few very cold nights, but the year 2000 seemed to have more cold weather with lower temperatures.

Large crowds did arrive on many evenings during the month, but total registration fell below 1999.

The Bryan family appreciates the donations of time and money given by its friends who helped put up the display and to register and entertain guests.

Guests from 38 states registered at Bryan's Barn during December 2000. States registered: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New

RL churches join in revival

Three churches from Robert Lee will be conducting the "Christ Over Robert Lee" revival this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Friday night, the Phillips Family Singers from Nashville will bring a service of word and song to the Victory Assembly of God church on Houston Street at 7:00 pm. Saturday evening at 6:00 pm, the Tarango family of San Angelo will bring the music with Brother Gene Gloria preaching at the First United Methodist Church and Sunday afternoon at 3:00 pm the music will be contemporary with Brother Jim Reeves preaching in the Hispanic Church at the corner of Houston and 1st St. Everyone is invited to attend all three services, as these churches go together to bring the message of Christ to Robert Lee.

York, North Carolina, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

The states sending the most visitors in the order of their numbers: California, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Florida.

Countries from which guests came: England, Germany, South Korea, Canada, Philippine Islands, Mexico, and Japan.

Bronte Chamber of Commerce banquet

The Bronte Chamber of Commerce banquet will be held on Monday, February 19, 2001 at the school cafeteria beginning at 6:30 pm. Special guest speaker will be western author, Elmer Kelton. The meal will be catered by Longbranch Bar-BQ.

Tickets can be purchased at the following locations: Shalon's Boutique, Main Street Market, City Hall, Bronte Bank, and will also be available at the door.

Bring your Elmer Kelton book and have it autographed.

Damage to road signs

Before you take or damage a street or road sign please stop and think. What if someone on that road needed an ambulance? Would the ambulance crew know what road to turn on? Would you want to be liable for someone's life? What if a house was burning?

The County has had a large amount of signs either damaged or stolen recently. This is not only dangerous as stated above, but very costly to the County.

Who is the County? The County is you and this is money out of your pocket, plus your neighbors. Do you really think your neighbor wants to pay for a sign to hang in your child's room?

Signs were made today (29th) to replace the latest ones costing \$166.00. That is what was turned in during one day. I really think we have better places to put the money than replacing signs.

Jackie Walker
County Judge

THC announces grant recipients

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) recently awarded nearly \$30,000 in Heritage Tourism Partnership Grant funds to eight groups in West Central Texas for the promotion of the Texas Forts Trail Region.

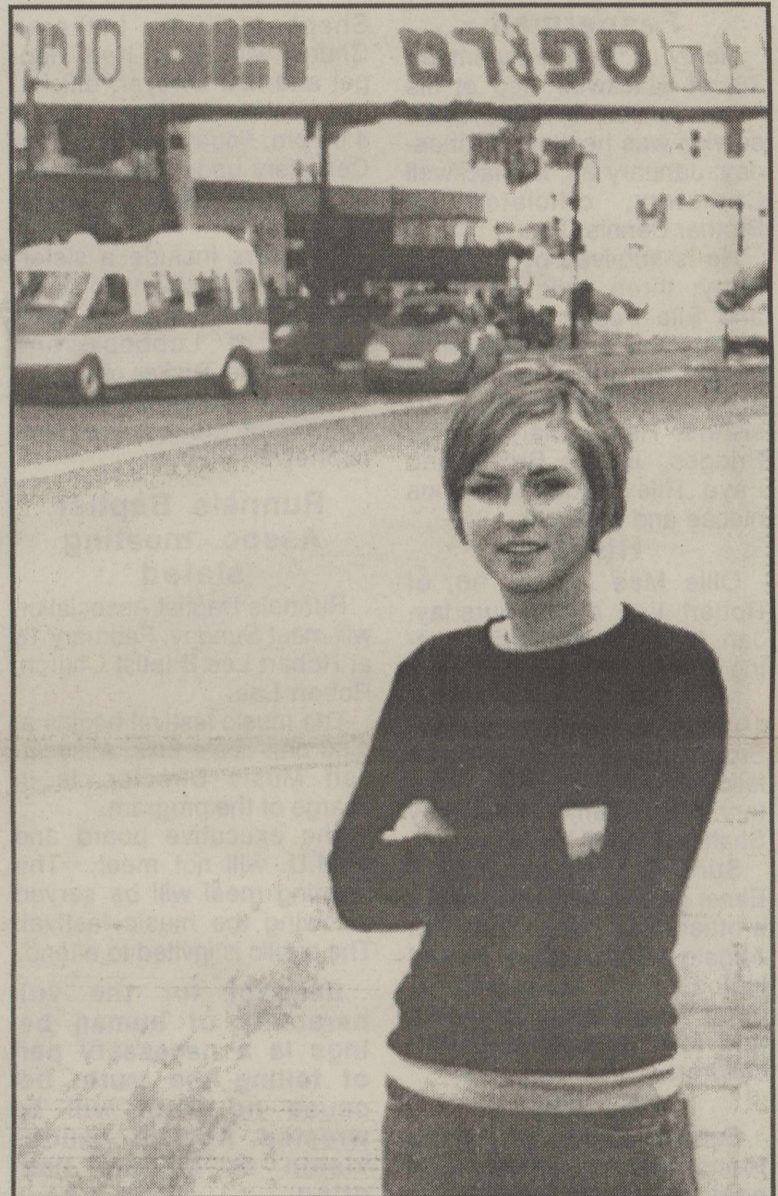
The grants, a part of the THC's Texas Heritage Trails Program: *A Regional Tourism Initiative*, help communities fund products and projects that enhance the visitor experience to cultural and historic sites and events in the Texas Forts Trail Region.

Recipients were the Breckenridge Improvement Council, City of Breckenridge, Fort Chadbourne Foundation (Bronte), Friends of the Cross Plains Library, The Grace Museum (Abilene), Grady McWhiney Research Foundation (Abilene), Heart of Texas Historical Museum (Brady), and Young County.

"Communities, heritage organizations and tourism associations were eligible to receive up to \$5,000 of grant monies to be used for projects that promote this region as a heritage tourism destination," said Larry Oaks, THC executive director. "Projects could include such items as interpretive exhibits, events highlighting historic sites, brochures that take travelers off the beaten path or educational materials, to name a few."

The funded projects include a horseshoe pitching contest, a billboard promoting historic murals in Breckenridge, a video educating junior-high school students about Texas forts, a library wall mural, a video depicting life in rural Texas communities in the early 20th century, a newspaper telling the story of the Texas frontier, a brochure on Central Texas culture and a special event celebrating the 150th anniversary of Fort Belknap. All advertising projects will also promote the Texas Forts Trail Region, which is a requirement to obtain the funding.

The Texas Heritage Trails Program increases tourism at cultural and heritage sites in regions across Texas and revitalizes local economies through regional marketing of these sites. Additionally, the program increases awareness of the importance of historic preservation to tourism and



Sonya Beauchamp, a junior at the University of North Texas in Denton, participated in a 10 day sabbatical in Israel recently as part of the Hillel Israel Birthright program. She climbed Masada, floated the Dead Sea, camped in the Judean Desert, excavated a 2500 year old Maccabee cave, walked the ancient port of Caesarea, swam in the Mediterranean, sat on the Golan Heights, touched the Western Wall, visited Israeli schools, spoke with Israeli soldiers, heard Prime Minister Ehad Barak speak, and much more. Sonya is the daughter of Sheila Beauchamp of Bronte and has three sisters: Heather, a student at UT San Antonio; and Khanni and Rebekah, Bronte ISD students.

fosters effective local tourism leadership.

The THC offers free travel guides highlighting Texas' heritage trail regions. Currently, the Texas Forts Trail Region and the Texas Independence Trail Region are available. Visit www.thc.state.tx.us or call the Texas Historical Commission at 512/463-6255 for a free copy.

Skywarn classes

A skywarn class will be held at 7:00 pm, Feb. 12, 2001, at the Bronte City Hall. The speaker will be Buddy McIn-

tyre with the National Weather Service. The class is open to the public.

The skywarn class is sponsored by the Robert Lee Fire Department, Bronte Fire Department, and Coke County Emergency Management.

Gospel Singing Sunday

The regular monthly community gospel singing will be held Sunday, Feb. 4 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.

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Published Weekly Except Christmas
707 Austin (915) 453-2433

(USPS 467-480) (ISSN 8750-197X)
Periodical Rate Postage paid at Robert Lee, TX.

**POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to
Observer/Enterprise
PO Box 1329, Robert Lee, TX 76945.**

STAFF

Hal Spain, Publisher Melinda McCutchen, Editor
Morgan McCutchen Pat Taft

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per Year in Coke County.....\$20.00
Per Year Elsewhere in Texas.....\$22.00
Per Year Outside of Texas.....\$25.00

Death Notices

Fesperman

Henry L. "Slim" Fesperman, 78, of Blackwell died at his home January 21. Graveside service was held on Wednesday, January 24, in Blackwell Cemetery, officiated by Brother Dennis Clark.

He is survived by his wife, Betty; three children, Cecil and Ella Fesperman, Susie Phillips and Linda and Dewain Odom; 18 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; four sisters, Helen Clark, Grace Bridges, Jimmie Brown and Faye Riley; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Hurley

Ollie Mae Hurley, 96, of Robert Lee died Thursday, Jan. 25, 2001, in a local nursing home.

Memorial service was held at 10:00 am Saturday at the Bronte Nursing Home. Burial followed in Paint Creek Cemetery. Arrangements were by Shaffer Funeral Home.

Survivors include a son, Elmer Lee Hurley of Bronte; a brother, Bud Thetford of San Angelo; a sister, Opal Vest of Hatch, N.M.; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Raindl

Services for Rowena Tucker Raindl, 84, of Lubbock were held at 11:00 am Friday, January 26, 2001, at

Shepherd King Lutheran Church with Revs. Kent Hapfel and Mel Swoyer, officiating. Interment was held at 4:00 pm, Friday at Robert Lee Cemetery under the direction of Franklin-Bartley Funeral Home.

Survivors include a sister, Virginia N. McCarty of Lubbock; 2 brothers, Louis Perry Tucker of Lubbock and Dewey Dale Tucker of Idalou; 14 nieces and nephews and a number of great nieces and nephews.

Runnels Baptist Assoc. meeting slated

Runnels Baptist Association will meet Sunday, February 18 at Robert Lee Baptist Church, Robert Lee.

The music festival begins at 4:00 pm. Dale Ellis, Association Music Director, is in charge of the program.

The executive board and W.M.U. will not meet. The evening meal will be served following the music festival. The public is invited to attend.

Respect for the vulnerability of human beings is a necessary part of telling the truth, because no truth will be wrested from a callous vision or callous handling.

Anals Nin

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

With the exception of a bullet and your response to criticism, the little kitty has received more attention than it ever deserved.

We have more important issues around us everyday.

Some of us would stand on the highest mountain and shout, "Let nature take its course," then go back to that same mountain and shout, "Pro choice, Pro choice".

If you were to run a picture of a woman with her doctor holding the fetus of an aborted child, who would they defend, the murderers or the poor defenseless beautiful little creature?

If a person straddles a fence long enough they certainly will rip their pants sooner or later.

Mike Cervenka
Bronte, Texas

Letter to the Editor

We recently had a meeting for the Coke County Little League to appoint officers for the next two years. The meeting was open to all parents of children playing softball or baseball. Regrettably we only had 5 people attend.

The meeting was announced in the paper two weeks in advance and posted in 3 local post office buildings.

The people in this county must realize that there are over 250 children playing softball or baseball chartered in this county. If we do not have more parent participation in this Association we will not be able to have it anymore. If this happens, the children that want to play ball will have to play in Ballinger, San Angelo, or Winters.

That would be very unfortunate for everyone to have to travel to another town to practice and play games when we have tried so hard to have a facility in Bronte and Robert Lee that we can be proud of.

Last year's huge response to softball and baseball sign-ups should make everyone be a little more concerned about the summer activities for our youth in this county.

We greatly appreciate the very generous donations that

we received last year. As well as many hours of donated time from individuals to install lighting, fencing, and hauling dirt.

This year we would like to work on scoreboards and additional lighting where needed. Any donations of money or materials will be greatly appreciated. But we must have some volunteers.

Yes, someone will do it, but it can't be the same people year after year. It is a lot of work to run and maintain the fields, concession, and coaching teams. The next meeting will be held Sunday, February the 11th at 2:00 pm in the Bronte Church of Christ Annex.

I know this is a busy time of the year, but baseball season will be upon us before you know it. Please, attend this meeting, your children are depending on you.

Sincerely,
Angie Hoyt - President
Kenny White - Treasurer

"The 64 Study Club"

Members of the '64 Study Club met for the first meeting of 2001 on January 9th. The meeting was held in the First Methodist Church.

The president, Beth Prather, presided over the meeting with 27 members and one guest present.

Eva Horton, guest speaker for the evening, showed a film on "Rehab 2001" and said all money given went to the treatment centers.

This was the 31st annual telethon with a phone bank at Ivey Motor Co., giving residents an opportunity to give.

Leta Caston, Coordinator for "Rehab 2001" 64 Study Club, reported how much money she had received and encouraged everyone to support the cause.

Hostesses were Thelma Jo Hinnard, Dale Fields, Nita Duncan, Sarah Green, Virginia Fikes and Faye Roe.

The reason so many people never get anywhere in life is because, when opportunity knocks, they are out in the backyard looking for four-leaf clovers.

Walter P. Chrysler

County/district clerk's seminar held

County/District Clerk Mary Grim joined 400 County Clerks, District Clerks and Combination Clerks for the 29th Annual County and District Clerks' Continuing Education Seminar at the College Station Hilton Conference Center on January 8-11, 2001.

The annual continuing education seminar at College Station is sponsored by the Institute of County Government at Texas A&M, which is part of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and The Texas A&M University System. The Institute provides information, education and technical assistance to elected county officials to help them complete their state-mandated, minimum continuing education requirements.

The theme of this year's seminar was: "The Future is What We Make It!" Included were workshops on using the Internet and other future technology, customer service, parental notification regulations, records management, conflict resolution, routes to new jury systems, preview of the 77th Texas Regular Legislative Session and child support resolution.

Texas is one of a very small number of states that requires all elected county officials to earn continuing education credits. V. G. Young Institute provides that service to County Commissioners, Judges, Treasurers, Tax Assessor/Collectors and County and District Clerks at College Station and across the state.

Churches of Robert Lee

Invite You to Worship

Emmanuel Pentecostal
PO Box 683 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy
(915) 453-2360
Rev. Ray Aldridge, Pastor
Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm
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

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BRONTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BANQUET

DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2001

TIME: 6:30 PM

PLACE: SCHOOL CAFETERIA

PRICE: \$5 PER PERSON

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

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Robert Lee Recreation Center • Robert Lee

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Ballinger, Texas 76821

(915) 365-5030

Carlton-McConnell exchange vows

Terri Lucynda (Cyndi) Carlton and Aaron Patrick McConnell were married October 14, 2000 at the Leland & Dorothy Carlton Estate in Bronte, Texas with Pastor Paul A. Evans officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Bill Jackson of Blackwell and the late Ronnie Carlton. She is also the granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. T.J. Oden of Blackwell and the late Mr. & Mrs. Leland Carlton of Bronte.

The bridegroom is the son of Dr. & Mrs. Richard McConnell, Jr. of Aledo, Texas. He is also the grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Owen Kay of Huntington, Texas and the late Mr. & Mrs. Dick McConnell of Fort Worth.

Maid of Honor was Jennifer Goodman of Laramie, Wyoming. Bridesmaid was Roseann Hirtzel of Abilene. Bridal attendants were Bryce Sellers of Stephenville, John Boegner, Jr. of Bryan, and Shane Meffert of Abilene. Ring bearer was Quincy Carlton of Happy, Texas.

Best man was Ken Horan of Stephenville. Groomsmen were Chris Harwell and Chet Cameron, both of Stephenville, Chad Holbrook and Patrick Pidgeon, both of Arlington.

Ushers were Garrett and Mason Jackson, both of Bronte, and Kaleb and Cody Jackson, both of San Angelo.

The bride is a 1994 graduate of Blackwell High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree from Tarleton State University in agricultural services and development. She is self-employed in Bronte.

The bridegroom is a 1995 graduate of Arlington Martin High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree from Tarleton State University in animal production. He is employed by Merck & Co., Inc.

After a wedding trip to Jamaica, the couple will live in Bronte.

Dyslexia parent meeting

Jody Johnson, Region XV Dyslexia Contact, would like to invite you to an informal evening discussion about Dyslexia. This will take place at Region XV's Conference Center located at 612 South Irene, San Angelo on the evening of Tuesday, February 6th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

Call Jody Johnson or Paula Gipson at 915-658-6571 to register or for more information.

Genealogy and Historical Society to meet

The San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society will meet at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2001, at the West Texas Collection at ASU. It is located on the 2nd floor of the student center.

For more information call 655-6494.

In her left arm, the Statue of Liberty cradles a tablet bearing the date of the Declaration of Independence in Roman numerals: MDCCLXXVI.



Mr. and Mrs. Aaron McConnell

December busy month for residents

The Robert Lee elementary came to sing Christmas carols and play their instruments for the residents. There were about 95 students in all. They did a great job!

We took the kids up on their

invitation to go see their Christmas play at the school. The residents really enjoyed the play.

We also took a trip to San Angelo to see the lights and took a drive out to Bryan's Barn to see our very own lights. By this time everyone was ready to go home.

"Don't give your horse the spur till you know which way you're going."

Jan Burns wasn't born in the saddle, but she got there as quick as she could. She's been riding since she was four and has won over a hundred buckles in barrel racing.

Jan counts on co-op power for her home as well as her saddle and tack shop. Jan belongs to a Smart Choice cooperative. Smart Choice is a coalition of West Texas cooperatives committed to making the right decision on electric deregulation.

The goal of deregulation is to bring the benefits of retail competition to the power industry. But so far, in states such as California and Pennsylvania, reality has fallen short of the promise, often bringing higher rates and even power shortages. The Texas Legislature gives cooperatives an opportunity to wait and see how deregulation will affect Texans. We intend to take advantage of that time to be sure deregulation is right for our member-owners. Before we ride off, we're going to be sure where we're headed.

Texas electric cooperatives have been providing power to Texans since 1937. As co-ops, we are non-profit and member-owned. To learn more about deregulation, visit us at our web site, or call your local Smart Choice electric cooperative.



the smart choice.

Your Smart Choice Electric Cooperatives.

- Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Coleman County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Comanche Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Concho Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Swisher Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.smartchoicecoops.com

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Selected Varieties
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In Water or Canola Oil
Chicken of the Sea Chunk Light Tuna
3 6 oz. cans **/\$1**

Selected Varieties
Coca-Cola Products
12 Pk. 12 Oz. Cans **\$2.89**

Bronte School News

Bronte JV Girls posts current results

On January 22nd, the Bronte Junior Varsity Girls basketball team played Robert Lee and lost by a score of 6-11. Individual results are as follows: Lindsey Williams, 2 rebounds, 1 assist; Jenna Herold, 2 points, 3 rebounds; Natalee Reed, 2 points, 3 rebounds, and 1 steal; Ashley Torres, 1 point, 4 rebounds, 4 steals, and 1 assist; Kailey Howell, 1 point, 5 rebounds, and 1 steal; and Logan Acker, 3 rebounds and 2 steals.

The JV Girls played Roby on January 23rd, and won by a score of 46-27. Individual results are as follows: Heather Richey, 20 points, 4 rebounds, and 3 steals; Kayla Hilliard, 4 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals, and 1 assist; Jenna Herold, 2 points and 2 rebounds; Britney McCutchen, 10 points, 5 rebounds, and 1 steal; Kanah Coalson, 2 points, 5 rebounds, 2 steals, and 1 assist; Brittany Eldred, 1 point, 4 rebounds; Ashley Denton, 4 points, 2 rebounds, and 1 steal; Ashley Torres, 3 points, 1 rebound; and Logan Acker, 1 rebound and 1 steal.

The Lady JV Girls played the Robert Lee 9th Graders on January 29th, and lost by a score of 21-30. Individual results are as follows: Lindsey Williams, 3 points, 3 rebounds, and 3 steals; Jenna Herold, 1 point, 4 rebounds, and 1 assist; Natalee Reed, 3 points and 4 rebounds;

Ashley Torres, 4 points and 2 rebounds; Kailey Howell, 3 points and 2 rebounds; and Logan Acker, 7 points, 4 rebounds, and 1 steal.

Bronte Longhorns dominate Roby

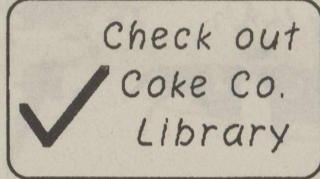
The Bronte Longhorns outscored the Roby Lions 46-28 in a recent district basketball game with the following individual results: Brandon Gibbs, 9 points, 5 rebounds, and 4 assists; Henry White, 6 points; Zeb Speary, 12 points and 4 assists; Ryan McCorkle, 9 points and 5 assists; Tim Green, 4 points; Steve Eldred, 2 points, and Charlie Bettis, 4 points.

Bronte students place at Brownwood academic meet

Brownwood High School hosted a UIL Practice Meet on Saturday, January 27, 2001. Bronte students participating and their events were: Clayton Acker - Number Sense, Math, Science; Jenna Herold - Current Events; Anthony Flores - Current Events, Science, Ready Writing; Brandon Poehls - Current Events, Science; Jade Richards - Number Sense, Math Science; Jeremy Sanchez - Current Events; Cara Sefcik - Math, Science, Headline Writing; Joe'l Sefcik - Calculator, Science; Lindsay Springer - Calculator, Science; Lindsey Williams - Spelling.

Results are as follows:

Jade Richards - 2nd Science and 4th Number Sense; Brandon Poehls - 7th Current Events and Issues; Clayton Acker - 6th Mathematics; Anthony Flores - 7th Ready Writing; Clayton Acker, Jade Richards, and Cara Sefcik - 1st Place Math Team.



Lone Star Libraries Act

There is a bill before the legislators this year in Austin called the Lone Star Libraries Act. This is a bill which will provide monies direct from the state to support Texas libraries. State funding is presently dispersed from the Big Country Library System and is based on per capita. This area of the state has lost population and therefore the income has been decreased. The Lone Star Libraries Act would help meet the minimum needs of public libraries.

Coke County is fortunate to have the support of the County and the supplement from the state will mean, of course, more books for the library. Legislators may be addressed at P.O. Box 12068, Austin, Texas 78711. Library patrons are asked to drop the

legislators a postcard in support of the Lone Star Libraries Act.

Zane Grey's birthday is remembered this month on January 31, 1875-1939. The birthdays of Norman Rockwell, Charles Lindbergh and Babe Ruth (2-6-1885 to 1945) are also recognized. Gail Borden announced the invention of evaporated milk on January 31, 1851.

It's not too late to become a member of the Coke County Library readers before the end of National Book Month. Library cards are free.

Library hours are Tuesday, 8-12; Wednesday, 8-4; Thursday, 1-5, Friday, 8-12. Story Hour is Tuesday at 10:00 for three to five year olds. Story Hour for Head Start is Wednesday at 9:00.

UTPB counselor to visit area schools

Edia Hernandez, admissions at The University of Texas of the Permian Basin, will be visiting with Fort Stockton and San Angelo area high schools and colleges in February. The purpose of the visit is to offer general information on attending U. T. Permian Basin.

Students ranking in the top 10 percent of their class are eligible to apply for the four-year \$14,400 Presidential PLUS and \$7,200 Presiden-

tial Scholarships. Students graduating in the top 11-25 percent of their class may qualify for either the UT Merit Scholarship which is worth from \$1,500-\$6,000 or the two-year Freshman Merit Scholarship of \$2,000.

During the week of February 12 through 16 she will visit Forsan, Water Valley, Grape Creek, Veribest, Paint Rock, Eden, Wall, Miles, Ballinger, Winters, Bronte, Robert Lee and Sterling City.

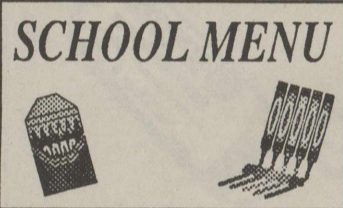
To set up an appointment with her call (915) 552-2605.

For admission and additional information about the freshman scholarships, write the UTPB Office of Admissions, 4901 E. University, Odessa, TX 79762, call 915-552-2605, or e-mail: admissions@utpb.edu. Check out the UTPB web site at www.utpb.edu.

Look's Who's New Noah Cade Wagner

Zane and Lennie Wagner proudly announce the birth of their son, Noah Cade Wagner. Noah was born January 4, 2001. He is welcomed by his sister Haliagh Rioen Lynn.

Other relatives sharing in this excitement include grandparents Debora and Jerry England along with Ed and Pat Wagner. Aunt Jessi England is planning on being #1 babysitter!!!



Breakfast

Monday, Feb. 5
Breakfast burrito, apple sauce, biscuit, milk

Tuesday, Feb 6
Sausage, grape juice, pancakes, milk

Wednesday, Feb. 7
Scrambled eggs, apple juice, toast, milk

Thursday, Feb. 8
Pancake & sausage on a stick, peaches, cinnamon toast, milk

Friday, Feb. 9
Cereal, mixed fruit, biscuit, milk

Lunch

Monday, Feb. 5
Pizza, tossed salad, sweet corn, milk, brownies

Tuesday, Feb. 6
Tacos with cheese, pinto beans, lettuce & tomato, Spanish rice, taco shells, milk, jello

Wednesday, Feb. 7
Grilled cheese sandwich, beef & vegetable soup, carrot sticks, corn bread, milk, peanut butter cookies

Thursday, Feb. 8
Sliced turkey, creamed potatoes, green beans, rolls, milk, peach cobbler

Friday, Feb. 9
Chick-Fil-Lay sandwich, French fries, lettuce, tomato, pickle, bun, milk, cinnamon rolls

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Give The Venetian Heart Votive Bouquet

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Balloons, Candy, Jewelry, Romantic Bath Products, Plush & much more.

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Valentine's Day is Wednesday, February 14

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RL Jr. High girls basketball

On the 25th, the Jr. High "A" team played in the Water Valley Tournament. In the first game of the tournament, Robert Lee took on Garden City and lost a close one by a score of 13-15. Robert Lee scoring is as follows: Cassidy Wink 2; Julie Riley 2; Cara Eaton 4; Michelle Sanchez 5.

In the second game, Robert Lee came on strong and took Sterling City by a score of 22-8. Robert Lee scoring is as follows: Kayli Dickey 1; Brittany Soliz 1; Cassidy Wink 4; Julie Riley 4; Lindsey Roe 12.

The third game was Robert Lee over Bronte by a score of 32-14. Robert Lee scoring is as follows: Cassidy Wink 2; Cara Eaton 16; Michelle Sanchez 10; Lindsey Roe 4.

The Robert Lee Jr. High "A" team won consolation.

The Jr. High "B" team also played in the tournament. They played 2 games and won both games. The first game was against Water Valley and they took the victory by a score of 16-6. Robert Lee scoring is as follows: Analy Gallegos 2; Kyla Millican 1; Kayla Medrano 6; Tiffany Bagwell 4; Carolina Vera 3.

The second game was against Bronte and Robert Lee took that win by a score of 17-2. Robert Lee scoring is as follows: Analy Gallegos 2; Stephanie Trejos 2; Kyla Millican 1; Kayla Medrano 2; Tiffany Bagwell 4; Carolina Vera 6.

On the 29th, the RLJH "A" team played Bronte and won by a wide margin of 42-13. Robert Lee scoring is as follows: B. Soliz 2; C. Wink 8; A. Parker 4; B. Lockstedt 4; J. Riley 4; M. Sanchez 14; L. Roe 6.

The "B" team won their game against Bronte by a score of 22-9. Robert Lee scoring is as follows: Analy Gallegos 6; Andra Braswell 2;

Stephanie Trejos 2; Kyla Millican 10; Kayla Medrano 2.

RL Jr. High boys basketball

In the Water Valley tournament, the Robert Lee boys 7th grade team played Water Valley their first game and won by a score of 25-12. Robert Lee scoring is as follows: Vincent McClelland 2; Lance Millican 2; Brandon Soliz 8; Lewis Hearn 9; Josh Conner 2; Eric Ortega 2.

They were victorious in their second game as they beat Garden City by a score of 14-10. Robert Lee scoring is as follows: Vincent McClelland 4; Lewis Hearn 4; Josh Conner 6.

The 8th grade team lost their first game to Garden City by a score of 27-34. Robert Lee scoring is as follows: Jake McCabe 5; Ruben Torres 11; Omar Saucedo 6; Andy Mulkey 5.

In the second game, the 8th grade came on strong and won over Water Valley by a score of 33-17. Robert Lee scoring is as follows: Cisco Moreno 2; Jake McCabe 5; Mark Colon 3; Ruben Torres 6; Omar Saucedo 6; Andy Mulkey 9; Robert Raney 2.

Robert Lee 8th grade boys won consolation in the tournament by beating Bronte with a score of 28-23. Robert Lee scoring is as follows: Cisco Moreno 2; Jake McCabe 4; Mark Colon 2; Ruben Torres 6; Omar Saucedo 5; Andy Mulkey 9.

Robert Lee JV girls basketball

The JV girls won a good game over Miles by a score of 48-12. Robert Lee scoring is as follows: K. Matthews 4; M. Brothers 14; A. Kendall 4; A. Millican 4; K. Soliz 8; C. Middleton 12; N. Sanchez 2.

The JV girls took another victory on the 29th as they defeated Rowena JV by a score of 33-29. Robert Lee scoring is as follows: K. Matthews 10; M. Brothers 2; M. Rodriguez 2; T. Lott 2; K. Soliz 9; C. Middleton 4; R. Wallace 4.

Robert Lee School News

RLJV girls 9th grade basketball team defeated Bronte by a score of 30-21. Robert Lee scoring is as follows: Jessica Fluhman 8; April Cowart 9; Shannon Honse 2; Tyler Lott 4; Debra Barron 5; Rachel Wallace 2. The 9th/JV team finished the season with a 6-1 record.

Lady Steers basketball

The Lady Steers continued their winning ways last Tuesday night with a 59-35 win over Miles. Shanna Wojtek, Deshira Dickey & Jodee Helwig led the Lady Steers in scoring with 13 points apiece. Wojtek connected on 4 of 8 from 3 point range and also had 9 rebounds. Dickey had a team high 10 rebounds. Kizre Matthews, Dixie Simpson & Whitney Millican each had 6 points with Rachele Mills rounding out the scoring with 2.

After Tuesday's win over Miles, the Lady Steers followed up with a home win over Roscoe 54-32. Dickey led the home team with 18 points followed by Millican who had 11. Other scoring included Jennifer Alexander with 4; Matthews 3; Wojtek 1; Amber Freeman 2; Helwig 6; Mills 2; Simpson 7.

The Lady Steers (22-2 & 6-0) travel to Roby on Friday, Feb. 2 for a big match up with the Lady Lions (22-1 & 5-1). With their win over Roscoe, the Lady Steers have clinched a playoff berth and will face an opponent from District 5-A, which includes Rotan, Odonnell, Aspermont & Crosbyton, in the first round of the playoffs.

RLISD board adopts retirement incentives

The Robert Lee ISD Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, January 25, at 6:30 pm in the High School Library. Among items approved was a retirement incentive program designed to reduce the districts payroll budget. Reduced student enrollment over the past few years has brought a resulting reduction in state funding earned by the district. The board and administration has been considering ways to reduce district expenditures. Supt. Weldon Koepf stated, "I proposed this retirement incentive program to the board as the least disruptive and divisive alternative to reducing payroll. If we had decided to simply lay off employees, there would have been hard feelings among the staff and members of the community. This way the employee makes the decision whether they want to leave or not. Many districts across the state have done this in recent years because of declining enrollments in some areas. We have an excellent staff and hate to lose any of them, but we had to do something to reduce expenses so that our surplus funds do not keep dwindling. Personnel salaries make up about 75% of our total budget. At the rate we are spending now, in a few years we would be bankrupt."

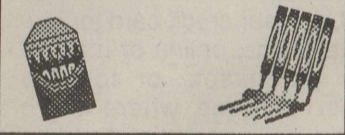
The program is open to professional contracted employ-

ees who have taught 20 or more years. They can choose to take regular or early retirement and will receive incentive payments based on a formula which includes a percentage of their annual salary plus pay for years of service and unused sick leave days. Staff members will have until mid-March to decide if they want to participate in the program.

In other action, the board adopted a name for the new Distance Learning Center that was approved in December. The Center will be named the Suzie Wilson Distance Learning Center, as a memorial to the longtime Robert Lee teacher. The Center will be housed in the classroom where Mrs. Wilson taught. Trustees also approved a proposal to move voting in school board elections to the Coke County Courthouse in Robert Lee. County officials had offered to provide the election location so that voters will not have to travel to several locations to vote for the various governmental entities.

In other routine matters, the board approved minutes of the previous meeting, financial reports and budget amendments. They also heard reports from Principals Janet Wallace and Lindsey Wallace and Superintendent Weldon Koepf. Trustees then went into closed session to discuss the superintendent's annual appraisal. After emerging into open session the meeting was adjourned.

SCHOOL MENU



Breakfast

- Monday, Feb. 5**
Orange juice, donut, cereal, milk
- Tuesday, Feb. 6**
Orange juice, breakfast pizza, cereal, milk
- Wednesday, Feb. 7**
Orange juice, blueberry pancake w/sausage, cereal, milk
- Thursday, Feb. 8**
Orange juice, muffin, cereal, milk
- Friday, Feb. 9**
Orange juice, cinnamon roll, cereal, milk

Lunch

- Monday, Feb. 5**
Pizza, corn, peaches, gingerbread, milk
- Tuesday, Feb. 6**
Chicken fried steak w/gravy, creamed potatoes, English peas, rolls, diced pears, milk
- Wednesday, Feb. 7**
Lasagna, green beans, salad, white bread, apple-sauce, milk
- Thursday, Feb. 8**
Baked potato, chili w/crackers, fruit cocktail, milk
- Friday, Feb. 9**
Hamburgers, lettuce/tomatoes, pickles, tator tots, chocolate pudding, milk

CATHY'S FLOWERS & GIFTS
453-2036

Valentine's Day
Wednesday, February 14th

Now Taking Orders!

- Fresh Cut Flowers • Blooming Plants • Balloons •
- Valentine Snack Packs • Beautifully Decorated Heart Shaped Cakes • Candies • Valentine Candles & Soaps •
- Stuffed Animals, Etc.

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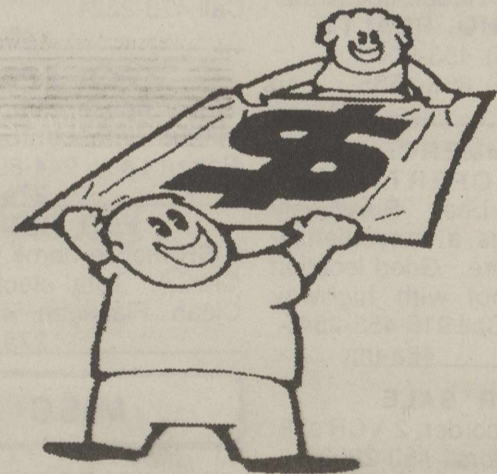
We'll be there. Whenever you need us, we're only a phone call away.

You're part of our family—we'll be there, for you.



GERMANIA INSURANCE COMPANIES
CARWILE INSURANCE.
453-2522

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Use our Pulse ATM card at thousands of ATM locations including one in both Robert Lee and Bronte, plus Point-of-Sale terminals at many retail stores. Call us at 453-2545 for more details.



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Robert Lee, Texas

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Tele-Bank 453-2585



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- 2nd and Subsequent Insertions...
16¢ Per Word
(\$2.50 Minimum)

Additional 50¢ charged for Blind Ads

- Legal Notices...
25¢ Per Word

ADVERTISING DEADLINE
Tuesdays at 5 pm

FOR SALE

ROBERT LEE
1424 Washington, Robert Lee. 3 Bedroom Home with Living Room & Den! Large covered patio & Carport!

ROBERT LEE
802 Vicki St. Robert Lee. 3 Bedroom Home Updated Kitchen cabinets, Siding & Metal Roof! \$20's!

BRONTE
US Hwy 277 Bronte. 41 Acres with 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Home with Live Oaks & another older Home! \$80's!!!

ACREAGE
200 Acres - Bronte Area!
600 + Acres Hayrick Area!
2300 Acres Robert Lee Area!

CONCHO REALTY
(915) 453-5005
(915) 653-4535
23a-EOW

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
in Robert Lee. Previously operated as a convenience/grocery store. Good location near school with highway frontage. Call 915-453-2545.
46a-tnc

FOR SALE
Cheap camcorder, 2 VCR's, 2 radar detectors. 453-2202.
27a-1tp

FOR SALE
3 bedroom, 1 bath house at 205 S. Franklin, Bronte. \$22,000. 224-8472 or 374-7924.
27b-4tp

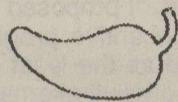
OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN
4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, 2 story home w/acreage.

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Excellent condition, close to school. Call for prices and for appointment.



Lee Associates
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160 acres (would divide). Less than four miles from Bronte. Live Oaks, 46 acres in grass fields (fenced separately), natural water. Deer, turkey, quail. (915) 473-3201.
24a-tnc



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\$6/dozen. Delivered daily each morning. Call 453-2075.
13a-tnc

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1982 Chevy 1/2 ton pickup. Rebuilt 350 engine, new 3 row core radiator. Must see vehicle. Call 473-6600
27b-1tc

BANK SELL OFF
Seller financing. Move in tomorrow. \$500 DN/\$249.99 per mo. 310 W. 16th St., Robert Lee, TX. Call 1-800-373-4195.
27a-2tc

FOR RENT

TAKING APPLICATIONS
for one, two, & three bedroom apartments. Contact Housing Authority of Robert Lee, 710 N. Bishop, 453-2912. Equal Housing Opportunity.
29a-EOW

BRONTE MINI STORAGE
has storage buildings for rent. Call 473-2221.
14b-tnc

FOR RENT
Trailer house completely furnished with central heat in Robert Lee. 944-8990.
27a-1tc

FOR RENT
2 BR mobile home w/add on. CH/CA. Total electric. Very Clean. Flanagan. 453-4359.
27a-tnc

MISC

THE "BARBER" SHOP
Debora England, 223 N. Lombard, Bronte. 473-4026. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9 am-6 pm.
17b-tnc

SUNSHINE CONSTRUCTION
New Construction, Additions, Renovations, and Home Repairs. Contact Don Parks @ 453-2860 or 450-2767 mobile.
34a-tnc



Bob Frazer's 944-0010 473-6603
Texas Best
Deflooding & Carpet Cleaning
24 hr. Emergency Water Damage Service

PARKER PLUMBING
Residential & Commercial. All types plumbing repair - new construction, remodeling, fixtures, and sewer service. Licensed Master Plumber. 473-2131, Bronte.
34b-tnc

COMPUTERS
Complete systems, repairs, upgrades, internet. Call Ed @ EMCO Computers. 473-3004.
32b-tnc

Quality Film Processing by Keaton Kolor at Hometown Hardware Bronte, Texas

TREES TRIMMED
topped or removed. Call 453-9902 after 6 pm.
37a-tnc

D & L DOZER SERVICE & CUSTOM FARMING
Larry Spivey, owner-operator. PO Box 160, Bronte, Texas. Phone (915) 282-3038.
45b-tnc

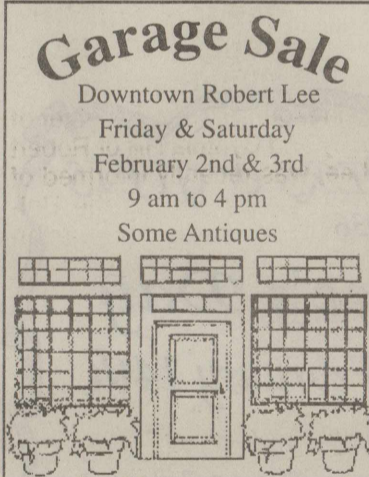
HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED
CNAs needed for all shifts. Full time and part time. Competitive pay. Contact Sarah Lee, DON, Senior Citizens Nursing Home, Winters. Phone 754-4566.
36b-tnc

GARAGE SALES

YARD SALE
Saturday Feb. 3rd. Pocket knives, leather rifle cases, frosted glass figurines, bird-feeder. Something for everyone. 219 Oliver in Bronte across from the post office. 473-2032.
27b-1tp

DON'T FORGET....
Bronte city-wide garage sale....May 5th.
27b-1tc



Garage Sale
Downtown Robert Lee
Friday & Saturday
February 2nd & 3rd
9 am to 4 pm
Some Antiques

CARD OF THANKS

WE JUST WANT TO
thank everyone for their prayers, visits, cards, flowers and food while I was in the hospital and my recovery at home.

God Bless
Jim & Carolyn Lee
27b-1tp

THE FAMILY OF
Mae Hurley wishes to express their appreciation for every prayer, thought, food and other acts of kindness shown us during our loss. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
Elmer & Janet
Bud & Madeleine
27b-1tp

Dirty snow melts faster than clean.

NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that Coke County Commissioners Court will receive sealed bids in the office of the County Clerk, Courthouse, Robert Lee, Texas until 9:00 am Monday, February 12, 2001, for the following:

One acre of land located approximately 9 miles south of Bronte on Hwy 277, on the west side of 277 where deceased former Commissioner Jack Corley used to keep County equipment. The one acre is located out of Green DeWitt, Survey No. 11, Instrument No. 938.

For further information, please contact David Rawlings, Coke County Commissioner Precinct #4, at 915-473-6602.

Coke County Commissioners reserve the right to reject any and all bids.
Stover Taylor, County Auditor
Coke County, Texas
26a-2tc

1945), J. W. Service Jr. (AF Radio Operator 2 years), Frank Maxwell Tubb, and Sam Williams.

Korea, Viet Nam or later
James F. Adkins, Truett Ellis Arbuckle (US Army 1951-1955), Coke Austin Jr. (Navy, Korea), Don Arlen Austin, Jack Austin (Navy), Charles Elbert Benningfield, Leroy Bell, Gordon Smith Bird (Army, Viet Nam), Raymond A. Bloodworth, Les Copeland, Bobby Gene Cox, J. W. Denman, William George Fisher (Descendant of Miller Bird-Viet Nam), Dewey R. Gartman, James Elmer Killam (USAF 1979), William C. Lassiter, Albert Wesley Lord, J. D. McCutchen, Madison C. McCutchen, Col. Donald Herbert Paap (descendant of Miller Bird WWII and Korea), John William Paap (Son of Donald Paap Army 8 years), Brian Herbert Paap (son of Donald Paap Army 13 years), Thomas J. Preslar, Robert L. Ramage, and Lt. Col. H. C. Varnadore (AF 1966 Deputy Commander serving in 1933).

Keep young adults smart about credit

To help new credit card users learn the ropes, Myvesta.org, a nonprofit financial services organization, teamed with Capital One to create and distribute a free publication that lays out the credit card basics.

"We've created a simple, step-by-step guide to help young adults understand the pluses and minuses of credit cards and credit card debt," said Steve Rhode, president of Myvesta. "While cards offer convenience and safety, we want to make certain that first-time users establish good credit habits and don't fall into financial trouble."

In addition to simple explanations of how credit cards work, the guide *Plastic Power for Young Adults*, offers smart strategies to help new users get the most from their cards, including:

*Use your credit card for big-ticket items, online or mail-order purchases, or for any other charges where there could be a potential problem with the merchandise or service. Then, check your credit card statement carefully and dispute any errors in writing immediately.

*Use a card that offers free collision damage waiver coverage when you rent a car. That way you'll save money by not having to pay the rental agency's coverage.

*Time a big purchase a day or two after the closing date of your card's billing cycle to get the maximum float. Check your statement to find out your closing date.

Consumers can download copies of the six-page publication free at Myvesta.org. In addition, Capital One will be making the publication available to its cardholders.

According to Myvesta.org, the average 18 - 24-year-old owes \$827 on two credit cards (November 2000 Credit Card Survey). The study also found that the average credit card user - across all age ranges - has \$2,814 in debt on three credit cards.

John LeCarre is the pen name of David John Moore Cornwell.

RLCC employees make Christmas a special time

The employees of the RLCC decided this past Christmas to adopt an "Angel" to provide a gift to every resident. Needless to say Santa's bag was full. Everyone was pleased with their gift. We had cookies and punch at the Christmas party with Pat Stephens keeping us entertained at the piano.

Early in the month of December, the employees also adopted a resident's door to decorate with a Christmas theme. The doors were judged by Robin Sparks and Cammille Flannigan. Winning 1st place was Ester Howell's door decorated by Lewie & Brenda Amex. The 2nd place was Harriett Arbuckle & Billie Harris' door decorated by Lynlee Owen and Martha Trejo. The 3rd place was Mr. & Mrs. John Maxwell's door decorated by Carolyn Coppedge & Rhonda Boner. We want to thank Carolyn Coppedge for making sure all west side doors were decorated. Everyone did a great job on their door.

Roberts attends AFBF convention

by Jeffie Roberts
Bobby and Jeffie Roberts attended the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in Orlando, Florida, January 6-10, 2001. The Convention was held in the Orange County Convention Center and the Rosen Centre Hotel Grand Ballroom in Orlando with AFBF President Bob Stallman of Texas, presiding. Bobby was one of the 22 Texas Voting Delegates along with approximately 450 voting delegates from all over the United States. Over 6000 were in attendance.

Mike Singletary, former Chicago Bears' linebacker, was the speaker for the Sunday evening session. His talk was inspiring, he received a standing ovation. Many issues were presented and conferences held during the convention.

Bobby and Jeffie along with a group attended Universal Studios and the Ballet - LaNouba in Disney Downtown. While the men were in their business meetings, we eight ladies did a little sight-seeing, attended the movie "Miss Congeniality" and visited the Famous Peabody Hotel to watch the Ducks.

A highlight of the Roberts' trip was to visit Jeffie's cousin, Louise (Creech) Parten, just 10 miles from their hotel in Kissimmee, Florida. Louise married Frank Parten in Texas

about 40 years ago. Frank was in the military and stationed in Texas at that time. They returned to Florida, Frank's home, as his family have been on the same land since the 1800's. Frank manages the Parten Farms, Citrus Groves and raises cattle. Bobby and Jeffie were thrilled to see the large orange, grapefruit, and tangerine trees in their yard in downtown Kissimmee. They were loaded with fruit, they ate some fruit right off the tree. Frank picked and packed a large box of fruit to bring back to Texas. There was a little problem getting the large box of fruit to the airport as it was so heavy. No problem in checking it in for its flight to San Angelo. (Delicious fruit). Louise is the daughter of the late E. B. (Push) Creech and the late Geraldine (Deanie) Sparks. E. B. was the brother of Jessie Harmon and Deanie was the sister of the late Buckles Sparks.

Search is on for next Miss Texas Teen

The search is on for Miss 2001 Texas Teen. It will be held on April 6-8, 2001 at Crown Plaza Hotel, Houston, Texas. This year's winner will receive a \$30,000 scholarship from Johnson & Wales University and will represent the state of Texas in the Miss 2001 United States Teen Competition at the House of Blues at Walt Disney World in beautiful Orlando, Florida, July 12-21, 2001.

Miss 2001 United States Teen will receive \$100,000 in scholarships, cash, prizes and a year of travel. In addition, she will have the honor of representing the United States in the Miss Teen International Competition.

If you are between the ages of 13 and 19 as of July 21, 2001, you could represent Texas at the National Competition. All contestants will be judged in four areas of competition: Personal Interview, Swimwear, Eveningwear, and a Fashion Show Presentation.

For more information or to receive an application, contact the *Miss Texas Teen Competition* at the Office: Miss Texas Teen Competition; 9597 Jones Road #138, Houston, Texas 77065; Phone (832) 721-4USA, Fax (281) 370-8944, Email Bikini-Usa@pdq.net or apply on line at www.missunitedstatesteen.com.

All applications must be received by March 6, 2001.



Santa Claus, along with his elves, made his annual visit to see residents at Robert Lee Care Center during a Holiday celebration this past Christmas season.



The Robert Lee Elementary Recorder Band, under the direction of Steve Ratliff, performed for the residents at Robert Lee Care Center during a celebration this past Holiday season.

Meagan Hill accepted at UT medical school

Meagan Hill, the daughter of Billy and Cynthia Hill of Robert Lee, was recently informed of her acceptance into the University of Texas at Houston Medical School. Meagan is a 1997 graduate of Robert Lee High School and will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry degree from Howard Payne University in May. Meagan will begin medical school at Houston on August 8th.

GED classes offered

GED classes are being offered at Robert Lee School every Tuesday & Thursday night. The classes are from 6:00 to 9:00 pm and everyone is welcome. For more information you may call the school at 453-4555 or Gayle Bolding at 453-2508. Don't miss this great opportunity to earn your GED.

The underground stem of a plant is called a rhizome.

Look Who's New Shaelyn Michelle Ellsworth

Shaelyn Michelle was born January 24, 2001 at 2:45 pm. She weighed 5 lbs. 10 oz. and was 18 1/2" long. Her parents are Staci & Marshall Ellsworth.

Available for this Spring at Key Feed Store

- Crabgrass Control with Balan (Pre-Emerge)
- Onion Plants
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Thursday, February 1 • 5-9 p.m.
Gun Show • Boats • RV's
Friday, February 2 • 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday, February 3 • 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sunday, February 4 • 12 Noon-6 p.m.

Ector County Coliseum
42nd & Andrews Hwy. • Odessa, Tx
Sponsored by Midessa Marine Dealers & Odessa Chamber of Commerce

New This Year Drag Cars
Ladies Night Friday 2nd from 5 to 9 p.m. Ladies Free

COUNTRY AGENTS
NEWS

by Tommy Antilley
Coke County Agent

Garden planning

Whether you are a seasoned gardener or this is your first year to grow vegetables, take time now - before you order your seed and supplies - to plan your garden in your mind and on paper.

By sketching out your garden and deciding what crops you want to plant, you will avoid the tendency to order more seed than you need. Most gardeners are happier and more successful with a small garden than a large one. You can grow a lot of vegetables in a 10 foot by 20 foot or 20 foot x 40 foot garden. But as the size of the garden gets much larger so does the amount of time required to keep it cultivated and well cared for.

Be sure there is adequate sun-light. Most garden crops require a minimum of 6 hours of full sun per day. Providing some late afternoon shade can be beneficial, particularly as the seasons warm into June and July.

Another important consideration is to allow adequate room for each crop. With good growing conditions, tomatoes will outgrow their cages, vining crops like cucumbers and melons will take over walkways between rows. One way to help eliminate this problem without sacrificing production is to plan early maturing crops like onions, lettuce, beets, radishes between rows of later maturing, warm season crops like tomatoes and vining crops we mentioned earlier. Once the early crops have been harvested you can allow this extra space to become part of your walkways.

Also, be sure to practice good crop rotation. That

means not planting the same crop or related crops in the same place year after year. This will help reduce disease and insect problems during the growing season. By putting things down on paper before you get started even those who garden in the smallest of spaces can implement a good rotation plan.

Varieties

For your primary choices be sure to pick from the All-Texas Selections. These are workhorse varieties that have been tried and proven to grow well in all parts of Texas. It is okay, and downright fun, to experiment with a few new and interesting varieties that you may find in a seed catalog. Just do not let them become your mainstays until proven or you may be disappointed.

Timing

Choosing when to plant your garden crops is the next most crucial step: plant too early and you risk freeze damage, plant too late and your plants will have the opposite problem-hotter, dryer weather and increased insect pressure. There are a few exceptions to this rule. Southern peas and okra actually prefer hotter weather and are great choices to replace cool season crops in late spring. A list of planting date suggestions are available in the County Extension office.

Other Considerations

This is also, as we have said many times before, a good time to have a soil test done so you will know exactly what elements you need to add to your garden. The County Extension office has soil test bags and instructions for you to use to send your samples into the soil lab. The small cost of this test is well worth it in terms of increased production and enjoyment from your garden.

If you have not already done so, now is the perfect time to add organic matter to your

garden. Most gardeners cannot produce enough compost to meet their needs. However, there are good sources of bulk compost available in most areas of the state. Be sure to select compost that has a clean, earthy smell. Foul

smelling material is not really "compost" because it has not fully decomposed. Avoid purchasing this "almost compost" or set it aside for use later in the season.

A handout on Planning

Your Garden is available in the Coke County Extension office. This guide shows design plans, planting dates and a list of All-Texas Varieties for your garden. Also, this guide could be picked up at the feed store.



These Headstart children and their reindeer hats entertained residents of the Robert Lee Care Center with Christmas songs during a recent Holiday celebration.

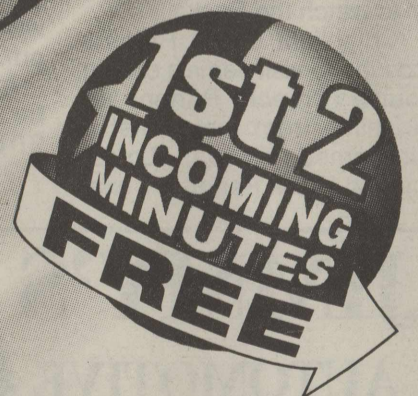
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Randy Flanagan • Buck Duncan • Billy Wayne Roe

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