

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

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Volunteers meet to discuss city land as nature resource

A group of volunteers met Thursday, June 29 in the Coke County Library to discuss the use of city-owned land as a nature tourism resource.

A recent magazine article quoted trendspotters as saying that because of today's faster pace, Americans are seeking intensive leisure activities that "connect them to their bodies and the natural world."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that 2.6 million people fish and 3.6 engage in wildlife watching and nature photography. A Texas A&M research paper reports that while there are

dedicated and serious birders, most birdwatchers are novice or casual tourists who want to combine birdwatching with hiking, shopping, or heritage history. The wildlife viewing market can be profitable for communities if they offer supplemental activities, the report explains.

It is hoped that a downtown initiative and a nature tourism interest will combine to increase tourist and business activity in Robert Lee.

Check out
✓ Coke Co.
Library

Alzheimer's association

A "Caregiver Education Series" program will be on Tuesday, July 17, at 3:00 pm, in the Sagecrest Alzheimer's Care Center meeting room. Sagecrest is located at 438 East Houston Harte, between Main and Akin Streets in San Angelo. The topics of discussion will be "Medicaid Eligibility and Spousal Impoverishment Information" from Yvette Sherman, Long-Term Care Specialist with the Texas Department of Human Services. Allen Price, Attorney, will also be present to talk about Estate Planning and legal issues.

The program does not function as a support group and is open to the public.

Summer reading program

The Coke County Library Summer Reading Program drawing was held Friday, June 27. The winner of the book I Can Draw Animals was Ashlie Wheat. Readers can be eligible to win a book by adding their names to the fish bowl every time they return a book. Readers who return three books can add their name three times to the drawing. Readers can pick a treat-of-the-week on each visit to the Library.

A recent article appeared in a magazine with advice on raising a reader. It states that reading builds vocabulary, gives kids a broader understanding of the world, and



Bishop Joel Martinez (left) presents Glenda Draper and Rev. Paul A. Evans with the Board of Laity Outstanding Discipleship Award at the awards banquet of the Southwest Texas Annual Conference held in Corpus Christi June 6-9. Bronte United Methodist Church received the award for having the largest gain in average worship attendance in the San Angelo District for the year 2000. Bronte UMC also received the Arthur J. Moore Award for excellence in evangelism.

teaches them to think that making reading a ritual is an important step. Letting children stay up 15 minutes longer at bed-time to read encourages reading. Having a book exchange with friends and swap books the children are willing to part with is mentioned. It can be done as a party with invitations and treats. Being a reader as a parent lets kids know that reading is important as is having a supply of books at all

times.

Studies show that students who read during the summer lose few of their learning skills.

Library hours are Tuesdays, 8-12; Wednesdays, 8-3; Thursdays, 1-5; and Fridays, 8-12.

Quilters share talent and love

An important element of West Texas Rehabilitation Center's annual telethon in January is the quilt/afghan auction, which features handmade items donated by individuals and quilting clubs throughout West Texas.

With Rehab 2002 scheduled for January 19, now is the time for Rehab's quilting friends to begin stitching together their gifts and letting Rehab know about it!

If you or your quilting club decides to donate a quilt or afghan, please call the WTRC Donor Relations Department at (915) 223-6300.

Robert Lee 1991 class reunion

The '1991' class of R.L.H.S. will have its 10th year reunion on Saturday July 14, 2001. The reunion will be held at the home of Steve & Wanda Oleksiuk. Please feel free to join them for a visit from 2:00 - 4:00 pm.

37th annual roundup weekend

The 37th Annual Mason Jaycee Roundup Weekend will be held in Mason, Texas on Friday and Saturday, July 13 & 14, 2001.

The rodeo will be both evenings at Fort Mason Park Rodeo Arena.

A dance will be held each evening to begin after the rodeo at Fort Mason Park dance slab.

The parade will be held on Saturday July 14 at 10 am.

On Saturday, the Mason Arts & Crafts Guild will sponsor the Arts and Crafts Fair. To obtain booth information, call 915-347-1020 or 915-347-6472. There will be many outstanding craft booths, delicious food and live entertainment throughout day.

Drinking water report published

In accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, a Consumer Confidence Report (Drinking Water Quality) has been prepared for distribution to customers of the Water System of the City of Robert Lee. The report was mailed on June 29, 2001. Copies are available at City Hall.



The Bronte Junior High and High School Cheerleaders entertained the crowd with cheers and candy during the Fort Chadbourne Day Parade in Bronte June 23.

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The Coalson Family children participated in the Fort Chadbourne Day Parade in Bronte June 23 with their version of a mini-hayride.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,
 On Thursday June 21st of 2001 around 5:50 pm my wife was returning to Snyder from a family member's funeral in Brady by way of Bronte on Highway 158 with my sister, my elderly mother and a close lady friend of my mother. A dark blue on coming car that was traveling toward Bronte from Robert Lee was driving very near the unmarked center of the highway and moved into the path of my wife's white four door sedan. My wife narrowly avoided a 70 MPH head on collision by going off her side of the road to lose control of her vehicle and wind up in the fence of the opposite side of the road. The coward that caused the wreck did not stop. He may have been passing through or could possibly be a resident to the area. There were three men in separate vehicles that did stop to help and for that we thank them very much.

A lady pulled up just after the first rancher had stopped and motioned for my sister to come to the road side. At that time the woman offered her help in contacting the sheriff with the possible identity of the person, including the description of the vehicle that she knew had ran my family off the road and could have killed a large portion of our family. She did not follow through.

My business has voice mail that can be reached at anytime (800) 734-8529 with information that could lead to the identity of the middle age woman who wears her hair in a bun; drives an older light color economy station wagon that would be in the 80's model range.

The dark blue car would be the big boxie style '70 or early '80 model and I have asked our neighbor, that is a Texas Ranger in Snyder, to look into our dilemma of needing to

find either the lady that has offered her help and did not follow through or the erratic driver that may regularly drive between Bronte and Robert Lee.

To the lady that is an eye witness to the above described accident; would you please come forward and bring honor to this dishonorable situation.

We thank the Lord that no one had to die because of foolishness. We do need to establish responsibility for the needs of our insurance company to have a witness that was outside of our auto.

Sincerely,
 Tom Wadleigh

Death Notices

Pruitt
 Paul Davis Pruitt, 82, of Norton, died June 18, 2001 in Ballinger.
 Service was held at 10:00 am Thursday, June 21, 2001 at the 9th Street Church of Christ with Max Pratt officiating. Burial followed in the Norton Cemetery.
 Survivors include son, Bruce Pruitt; brother, Curtis Pruitt & wife Hazel of Lamesa; numerous nieces and nephews; aunts, Katie McMillian of Ballinger, Ara Hickman of Crane, & Melba Fletcher of New Mexico.

Bird viewing house community project
 The blue April sky peeked through the drifting clouds while the breeze ruffled the surface of the pond and the tops of the trees. An egret daintily stepped into the field, searching for a quick lunch. Birds called to each other from tree to tree.

The day was perfect for a visit to the newly-built bird observation center at Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning

Area (LLELA), located on 2,000 acres of Denton County property near Lewisville Lake between Hwy. 121 and the Lewisville dam.

The 20-foot-by-7-foot building (which includes a 15-foot-long room for viewing and a 5-foot-long storage closet) has adult-height and child-height viewing portals, photos and background information on birds common to the area, and hands-on displays of how birds and other wildlife spend their lives.

From start to finish, this community project has been the brainchild of Adam Beck, 17. The nine-year member of 4-H serves as a 4-H ambassador, president of Denton County 4-H Council, secretary of the Bluebonnet 4-H Club and member of the Texas 4-H Natural Resource and Conservation Project Team.

The inspiration for the center came last summer during a family trip to Kentucky for a rabbit show, Adam said. The family took a side trip to the John James Audubon Museum and Nature Center in Henderson, Ky., where hands-on displays and viewing areas gave such an impressive look at nature that Adam wanted to do something similar - although less sophisticated - back home, as a combination 4-H community service and Natural Resource and Conservation project and an Eagle Scout project.

But taking notes and getting ideas is just the start of a project. Once the family got home, Adam's work really began. He had to learn how to approach sponsors and get contributions, his mother said. He learned a lot about getting out and finding community support.

"It was more work than I expected," Adam said. "It started off as a smaller project, and just got larger and larger. It was a lot of work but a lot of fun"

The bird observation center is just the beginning. Future hopes and plans include a by-reservation-only camp ground for groups such as Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts; expansion of educational trails; and improvement of wildlife habitat.

The sign outside the facility makes it official.

It reads: Adam Beck, Eagle Project, Texas 4-H Natural Resource and Conservation Project, LLELA Bird Observation Center, April 2001.

Some people believed they could tell the future by opening a Bible and putting their finger down on a verse at random. The text thus pointed out was supposed to be applicable to the question at hand.

San Angelo Writers' Club
 The speaker at the July 10th meeting will be Kate Sanderson. She is a published author and has had a varied career in the field of television, film, and theater. Ms. Sanderson will take the group on an exploration of various techniques for writing effective dialogue. Visitors and guests are welcome.

The meeting kicks off at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, July 10, at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd - 3355 West Beauregard, San Angelo (Behind H.E.B on Sherwood Way.)

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

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

Vacation Bible School 2001
 at
Southside Church of Christ
 Moses
THE GREAT FAITH ESCAPE

July 10, 11, 12
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
7:00 pm to 8:50 pm

Closing Program: July 12 at 8:40 pm

For age 3 thru Grade 5

Pre-registration: Monday, July 9
9:30 am - 11:30 am
at Church building

Be Careful This Summer!

Practice Water Safety

Bell Auto Body Shop
 Robert Lee 453-2640



Hunter Cole McCorkle would like to announce the marriage of his mother, Kimberly Ann McCorkle, to Alan Clay Ewing on April 27, 2001, in Lubbock, Texas. Kimberly is the daughter of Scotty and Patti McCorkle of Bronte. Clay is the son of Carolyn Ewing and the late Don Ewing of Matador, Texas. Kimberly is a 1997 graduate of Bronte High School. Clay is a 1992 graduate of Motley County High School and a 1996 graduate of Amarillo College Criminal Justice Program. He is recently employed by Aces A/C Supply out of Carrollton, Texas. The couple is currently living in Wolfforth, Texas.

RLVFD news

by Marian Thompson
Secretary

The fire department held its first meeting of July on the 2nd. President Larry Martin presided with 13 members present. The minutes of the previous meeting and the treasury report were read and approved.

Dispatcher Bud Thompson gave the activity report for the month of June. There have been 2 meetings and 1 training class. Drills and activities hours are incomplete as volunteers have not reported their hours. There was 1 assist to WCEMS with a landing zone. 4 fire calls. 1 motor vehicle accident with the firemen using the jaws to extricate the driver. 1 gas leak with firemen standing by at the scene in case of fire. 1 for electrical wires which turned out to be a false alarm. It was a CB antenna with static electricity after an electrical storm. 1 call to standby for Bronte. A grass fire on 277 south. Total 21 1/4 man hours, 3 1/4 truck hours and 16 truck miles.

The men discussed the cost of supplies needed for Fire Prevention week and tabled it until they could get prices from another source. The discussed problems with the scanners.

Assistant Chief Ed Zimmerman advised the men not to go to a grass fire without plenty of drinking water as the heat can cause many problems.

The vegetation is in prime condition for a range fire. Everyone needs to do their part to prevent fires.

The firemen will patrol the lake on July 4th and talk about fire safety.

The next meeting will be Training Classes on July 9th at 7 pm at the fire station.

Sweden leads the world in newspaper readership with about 572 copies sold daily for every 1000 people.

Social Security news

by Fredi Franki
Social Security Manager
San Angelo

Almost all individuals who receive Social Security, Supplemental Security Income and/or Title VIII Special Veterans benefits will receive a one-time payment to compensate for a consumer price index error made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The error affected calculations for the cost-of-living adjustment for the year 2000, and beneficiaries received a 2.4 percent increase instead of a 2.5 percent. The payment should arrive by the end of July.

For most of the 45 million Social Security and six million SSI beneficiaries, the amount of the payment will be between \$12 and \$19, covering

benefits paid from January 2000 through July 2001. (The shortfall for the majority of beneficiaries was \$1 per month.)

Regular monthly benefits, if affected, will be adjusted beginning with the payment received in August 2001.

Beneficiaries will receive a written explanation of their one-time payment and an explanation about their adjusted monthly benefit by the end of July 2001. Beneficiaries do not need to take any action to receive their adjusted benefits.

For eligible beneficiaries who have since died, their one-time payment generally will be made to an eligible spouse or child.

For more information, log onto Social Security's website, www.ssa.gov.

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To the residents of Coke County,

I am tendering my resignation as Coke County Tax Assessor-Collector effective August 1, 2001. I have been offered, and have accepted the position of Chief Deputy for the Brazos County Tax Office. This decision has been difficult, but both Billy Jack and I believe that this is an opportunity for our future.

I want to thank you for the privilege of serving as your County Tax Assessor/Collector for the past twelve and a half years. Your trust and friendship have meant so much to me. It has been both my pleasure and honor to serve the people of Coke County. Thank you again for this wonderful experience.

Sincerely,

D. Kristeen Roe, RTA
County Tax Assessor/Collector
Voter Registrar
Coke County

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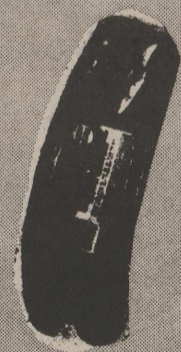
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cans **/\$1**



IGA
Tomato Sauce
8 8 oz.
cans **/\$1**

White • Seedless
Grapes
Lb. **.99**



**Vacation
cruise offers**

by John Cornyn
Attorney General of Texas

Q: I recently received a fancy certificate in the mail informing me that I'd won an all-expenses-paid Caribbean cruise. Is it really the fabulous deal it seems to be?

Q: If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. The Consumer Protection Division of my office receives inquiries about these types of offers on a regular basis. Most of these "prizes" are really sales campaigns instead.

In most cases, when you call the listed toll-free number, you will be told that you must sign up for the cruise or trip immediately or you will lose this once-in-a-lifetime chance. In addition, you are promised a free side trip if you sign up right away. If you agree, the salesperson will request your credit card number to confirm your reservation.

However, the deal is probably not what it seems. Important restrictions and additional fees are often buried in the fine print, mentioned in passing by the salesperson, or left out all together.

*Air fare to the place of origin for the cruise is not included.

*Hotel rooms before or after the cruise are not included.

*Departure taxes and fees, which can add up to hundreds of dollars, are not included.

In addition to hidden fees, you may discover too late that the cruise ships or island hotels are of poor quality and the free side-trip is really a visit to a time-share property.

Q: What are some things to look for to make sure the offer isn't a scam?

A: There are several indicators that a travel offer is a scam. First, the cost of a travel package is advertised at a 50 to 75 percent discount. You have no way of telling what the original price was to see if the reduced offer really is a good deal.

Another warning sign is a salesperson's insistence that the offer is for one day only. The salesperson is trying to get you to pay before you have a chance to review all of the details and realize that the offer isn't what it seems to be.

If the salesperson can't, or won't tell you the name of the cruise line, hotel chain, or airline, or even the name and address of the travel company, you should decline their offer, no matter how good it seems.

Some offers also quote one price up front to lure you in, and then make you pay for additional fees or join a travel club to qualify for the advertised rate.

If the salesperson asks questions about your job and income it could be a sign that the offered vacation package is to a time-share resort. If you don't meet their income requirements, the offer may be declined.

Q: How can I ensure I am getting the vacation I want?

A: The best way is to deal with a trusted local travel agent or the cruise or airline directly. By shopping around, you can often get a better deal than the offer that came in the mail, and you can be

sure that it is legitimate.

Don't pay for a vacation package until you receive complete details, including total price with all added fees, in writing. Make sure that you fully understand all costs that are not included in the package, such as meals or air fare. In addition, you should always pay by credit card so that you can dispute the charges if there is a problem.

If you believe you have been the target of a travel or cruise scam, you can file a complaint with the Consumer Protection Division of my office. You can obtain a consumer complaint form from our Web site at www.oag.state.tx.us or by calling (800) 621-0508.

**Reducing high
blood pressure**

High blood pressure, the "silent killer," puts one in five Americans at risk for stroke, heart attack and kidney failure. Also called hypertension, it is in many cases preventable and rarely shows any symptoms.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States, and high blood pressure raises the risk of stroke four to six times higher. High blood pressure is likely to strike twice as many African-Americans than Caucasians.

"While men are at greater risk of developing high blood pressure, women account for six out of 10 deaths over the age of 65," said Irvin E. Zeitler, D.O., family practitioner and medical director for Shannon Clinic. "While there are factors that contribute to hypertension that cannot be controlled - such as age, family history and diabetes - individuals can make beneficial lifestyle changes."

Awareness and early treatment of high blood pressure can significantly reduce the risk of stroke. LaurusHealth.com, a consumer health information Web site, offers these suggestions for lowering blood pressure.

*Exercise. Thirty to 40 minutes of aerobic exercise every day can lower blood pressure, as well as improve the health of your heart and lungs.

*Lose weight. Dropping as little as 10 pounds can decrease blood pressure.

*Reduce stress. Yoga, biofeedback and relaxation training are excellent techniques for reducing stress.

*Stop smoking. Smoking doubles the risk of high blood pressure and stroke.

*Cut back on foods high in saturated fat and cholesterol.

If lifestyle changes alone are not effective in preventing or treating hypertension, medication can be prescribed to help keep blood pressure under control.

"What is important," said Dr. Zeitler, "is lowering the diastolic blood pressure, or the lower number in a reading, by five or six points. While seemingly small, this can actually cut the risk of stroke by more than 40 percent."

More information on hypertension and stroke can be found at www.LaurusHealth.com. An innovative health information resource, the Web site was created in association with leading hospitals and physicians to help consumers make more informed choices about their health.

Many people believe the more you sleep before midnight, the better looking you'll be.

"You don't have to sit on a cactus to learn how to jump."

All that Virginia Shahan and her husband "Happy" knew about movies was the price of tickets when John Wayne asked to make a movie on their ranch. After *The Alamo* was released in 1960, the Shahans found themselves proprietors of a tourist attraction and movie set. More than twenty films have been shot at Alamo Village and 20,000 people visit a year. Happy passed on in '96, but Virginia still manages the property when she's not spending time at her ranch house with her eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Virginia counts on co-op power for her home and business. She belongs to a Smart Choice cooperative. What's "Smart Choice?" We're a coalition of Texas co-ops committed to making the right decision on electric deregulation.

Deregulation is a thorny issue and no one has a crystal ball to view its impact. Like many other Texas cooperatives, Smart Choice co-ops believe the wisest course is to "wait and see." Before deciding, Smart Choice co-ops want to know if deregulation has raised or lowered rates for other Texas power customers, particularly in rural areas.

Unlike private corporations, co-ops are owned by their customers. Your co-op's board of directors is elected to set policy that most benefits its member-owners. Your board is answerable to members and only to members, not shareholders or investment banks.

Electric cooperatives in Texas 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 cooperative.



the smart choice.

Your Smart Choice Electric Cooperatives.

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Comanche Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Concho Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Swisher Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.smartchoicecoops.com



Bro. Morris Johnson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Bronte, sang a moving rendition of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" at the Ratliff Building dedication ceremony Thursday morning, June 21.

Barricades are so-called from the French made during a Paris insurrection in 1588.

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July 9 - 11 • 9 am to 2 pm**

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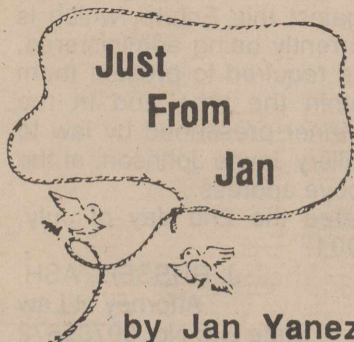
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by Jan Yanez
Coke County
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Time is ripe for summer melons

If the tests and fragrance of a fresh, juicy slice of melon makes your mouth water, you are in good company. Melons have been a favorite fruit for many centuries. They appear in Egyptian tomb paintings dated to 2400 B.C. and are mentioned in the writings of the early Greeks and Romans. Watermelons were a common refreshment of Americans in Massachusetts at the start of the 17th century.

This summer you can enjoy traditional melons such as cantaloupe, honeydew and watermelon, or go for the exotic by trying crenshaw, Persians, pepinos, casabas or the African horned melon. Use the following guidelines to pick a perfect melon every time.

*Cantaloupe - Buy when there is a smooth rounded depressed scar where the stem used to be, if you find

some stem the melon was picked to early. Cantaloupe should be eaten when it gives off a fragrance.

*Honeydew - The blossom end should be slightly springy and the shell should be creamy yellow, if the melon is greenish, it will never ripen. Honeydew becomes sweeter after picking.

*Watermelon - They are ripe when the underside is yellowish and firm, if it is white or green, the watermelon is immature.

*Crenshaw - Buy when the blossom end is soft and the skin is golden and green. The flesh is golden pink.

*Casabas - The shell is golden when the melon is ripe. The flesh is white.

*Persians - When ripe the blossom end is soft and the shell is mauvish with netted skin. The flesh is a shade of orange.

*African horned melon (kiwano) - The melon should have an orange to a golden yellow color and be covered with spines. It should be five inches long and three and one-half inches in diameter.

*Pepino - As it ripens this melon is green to yellow with purple stripes. It should not be soft or bruised. The pepino is four to six inches in length and oval shaped.

Any way you slice it, the melon is a great warm weather pick-me-up dish.

A teacher affects eternity; he never can tell where his influence stops.

Henry Brooks Adams

Gas saving tips

The following tips from AAA may help families across the Lone Star State save gas money while traveling this summer.

*Keep your tires properly inflated. For every pound per square inch that your tires are under-inflated, you use one to two percent gas mileage.

*Get your car tuned-up. You need to make sure your car's engine is in optimum running condition.

*Make sure your air filter is changed twice a year. A clogged filter is going to put extra strain on your engine.

*Make sure your motor oil meets car standards. Because Texas is known for it's hot summers you may consider a synthetic oil that is known to minimally aid gas mileage. Synthetic motor oils are slippery and therefore reduce internal mechanical friction. Although, synthetic oils are more expensive, you can go longer between oil changes.

*Check your car's thermostat. A malfunctioning thermostat can affect your gas mileage.

*Try to pack lightly. The more weight you carry in your car, the bigger the strain is on the engine.

*Use cruise control. Maintaining a steady speed gives you the best fuel economy.

*Don't let your engine sit idle. Don't forget to turn your engine off when making a pit stop. An idle engine consumes a gallon of gas every half-hour.

*Use your air-conditioning sparingly. Use it to cool off your car initially and place setting on re-circulation mode.



Bronte City Council members wave to the crowd during the Fort Chadbourne Day Parade in Bronte June 23.

Look Who's New Corbin Charles Drennan

Kodi Rene Drennan is proud to announce the arrival of her brother Corbin Charles. He was born June 27, 2001, at Shannon Women's and Children Hospital. Corbin weighed 6 pounds and 1 1/2 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Proud parents are Rick and Katie Drennan. Grandparents are Mary Beth and Wayland Drennan of Robert Lee and Bill Jackson of Midland. Great-grandmothers are Louise Walker of Robert Lee, Ruby Drennan of Sterling City, and Myrene Wallace of Ironton, Missouri.

Pet Talk

Tiny ear mites can be mighty big problems to a pet.

Mites are just one of several irritating factors that can effect your pet's hearing and lead to discomfort if left untreated, says Dr. Christine Rees, a veterinarian in the Small Animal Clinic at Texas A&M University.

Mites - the correct term for them is Otodectes - feed on the skin's surface and the ear canal can fill with wax, blood and mite debris, producing a

coffee ground appearance. Mites are not host-specific, so they can feed on another animal, Rees explains.

"Young animals - especially kittens - can get mites very easily," says Rees. "Unlike fleas, mites tend to stay in one area, usually the ear, and they can cause a lot of discomfort to the animal."

Excessive scratching and itching of the ears is usually a sign that a dog or cat has mites, Rees adds. Treatment often involves droplets into the ears, she says.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TXU Gas Distribution, in accordance with the Gas Utility Regulatory Act, hereby gives notice of the Company's intent to implement a new schedule of rates for natural gas service to be charged to the residential, commercial and industrial customers in the West Region Distribution System effective August 2, 2001, and, in the cities in which they are in effect, to eliminate the Rate Schedule for Public Schools-N and Commercial Contract Public Schools Rate. The West Region Distribution System includes Abilene, Albany, Alvarado, Anson, Baird, Ballinger, Bangs, Benjamin, Blackwell, Blanket, Blum, Bronte, Brownwood, Buffalo Gap, Carbon, Cisco, Cleburne, Clyde, Coleman, Colorado City, Comanche, Covington, DeLeon, Dublin, Early, Eastland, Glen Rose, Godley, Gordon, Goree, Gorman, Granbury, Hamlin, Haskell, Hawley, Hillsboro, Impact, Itasca, Joshua, Keene, Knox City, Lawn, Lipan, Loraine, Lueders, Meridian, Merkel, Miles, Moran, Morgan, Munday, Novice, O'Brien, Putnam, Ranger, Rio Vista, Robert Lee, Roby, Rochester, Roscoe, Rotan, Rule, San Angelo, Santa Anna, Seymour, Snyder, Stamford, Stephenville, Strawn, Sweetwater, Throckmorton, Trent, Tuscola, Tye, Weinert, Whitney, and Winters.

The rate schedule is expected to furnish an 8.76 percent increase in the Company's revenues from residential, commercial and industrial customers in the West Region Distribution System. A Statement of Intent has been filed with each city. If you desire to comment concerning this change of rates, you may contact the City Secretary of one of the above named cities.

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NOTICES

For room assignment, on the date of the hearing please check the bulletin board in the 1st Floor Lobby. Persons planning to attend this hearing are urged to contact the applicant (see service list) immediately prior to the hearing date to be sure that the hearing will proceed on the scheduled date.

This hearing will be held to consider the application of L.C.S. Production Company for unitization and secondary authority for the SPA (Odom Lime) Unit, Fort Chadbourne Field, Coke County, Texas. Applicant states that 100% of the working interest owners have approved of the Unit, and have executed and/or ratified the unit agreement. Over 88% of the royalty owners have approved of the Unit and have ratified the unit agreement.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, John Beckham, at (915) 673-1393. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Railroad Commission, Office of General Counsel, at (512) 463-6848.

IF A CONTINUATION IS NECESSARY, this hearing will proceed at the William B. Travis State Office Building, Austin, Texas, and, to the extent possible, on subsequent working days. The room number and exact time of the continuation will be announced on the record in this proceeding and recorded with Docket Services, Office of General Counsel, Railroad Commission of Texas.

PURSUANT TO SAID HEARING, the Commission will enter such rules, regulations, and orders as in its judgment the evidence presented may justify.

ANY REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT of this hearing must be received no later than five (5) working days prior to the scheduled date shown above. Copies of such request must be forwarded to all parties shown on the service list.

TO APPEAR IN SUPPORT OF OR IN OPPOSITION TO THIS PROCEEDING, a party other than the applicant must file with Docket Services, Office of General Counsel, at least five (5) working days in advance of the hearing date, a notice of intent to appear.

IF ANY PARTY DESIRES A WRITTEN TRANSCRIPT of the hearing, that party should notify the Court Reporter's office at (512) 463-6926, at least five (5) working days in advance of the hearing date. If a written transcript is requested, the Commission may assess the cost of the transcript to one or more parties. Unless any party requests a written transcript, the record will be made by audio tape recording.

ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY who needs auxiliary aids and services in order to have an equal opportunity to effectively communicate and participate in this hearing must request such aids or services at least two weeks prior to the scheduled hearing by notifying the Personnel office of the Railroad Commission of Texas by mail at P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, or by telephone at (512) 463-7327 or TDD No. (512) 463-7284.

ALL EXHIBITS FILED AS A PART OF THE RECORD IN THIS CAUSE MUST BE SUBMITTED IN DUPLICATE. DATA IN COMMISSION RECORDS MAY BE INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE, BUT THE REFERENCE MUST BE SPECIFIC, AND IF IT INCLUDES EXHIBITS FILED IN PRIOR PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE COMMISSION, A COPY OF SUCH EXHIBIT PROPERLY IDENTIFIED SHALL BE SUBMITTED FOR THIS RECORD.

THIS HEARING REQUIRES NOTICE BY PUBLICATION.

49a-4tc

College tuition assistance

A conservative estimate of college costs for a full-time student runs from \$10,000-\$30,000; high cost colleges can run from \$40,000-\$100,000! Most parents and students think that scholarships are only for the students with excellent grades, low-income families, or the athletically inclined. A small example of the numerous scholarships available to students include: Handicapped Student Scholarships, Members of a Church Scholarships, Scholarships for "C" Students, Veteran

Children's Scholarships, Scholarships for Minorities and much, much more.

Though the majority of scholarships are from the Federal Government and are and/or need based, billions of dollars are available to students from private sector scholarships. Much of private sector financial aid goes unused because the parents and students do not know how or where to apply.

There are organizations that have spent hundreds of hours in research locating scholarship sources. The U.S. Commission for Scholastic Assistance - College Bound is such an organization and supplies the public with over 900 different private scholarship sources. The scholarship list include the scholarship names, addresses, application deadlines, summaries about the scholarships and the amount the scholarship will pay your child.

Many scholarships pay the entire tuition; others can be applied towards tuition, living expenses, and/or other fees. Most scholarships can be used at junior colleges, career and vocational schools, 4 year colleges, graduate school, medical and law schools.

For information on obtaining these scholarship lists, send a self-addressed, stamped, business size, #10, envelope to: The U.S. Commission for Scholastic Assistance, P.O. Box 668, O'Fallon, IL 62269.

Water a garden in the morning, when temperatures are cooler and it's less windy. Less water will evaporate and more water will reach the roots.

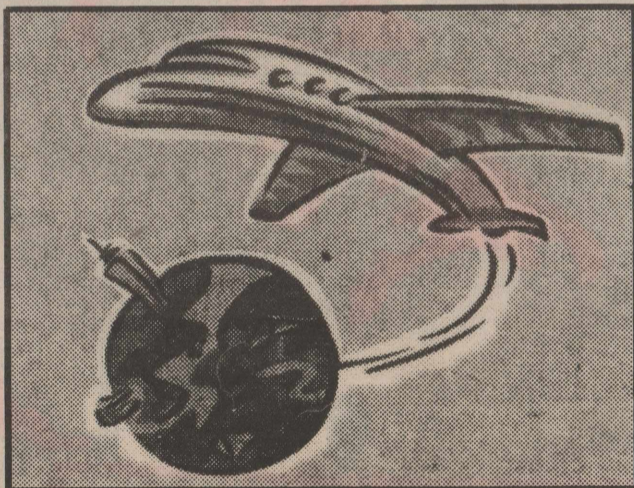
A school for the orphaned daughters of French military officers became famous for its cooking lessons. The

school's symbol was a blue ribbon, and eventually the cordon bleu - French for "blue ribbon" - became the emblem of a good cook.



Reese Springer (right) of Bronte recently attended the Mack Brown 2001 Summer Football Camp at the University of Texas in Austin. The young athletes were taught various drills, plays, discipline and strength training by Mack Brown, Butch Davis, and other professional coaches and high school coaches from all over the country. Reese is the son of Randy and Julie Springer.

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Chase Hoyt (right) of Bronte recently attended the Mack Brown 2001 Summer Football Camp at the University of Texas in Austin. The young athletes were taught various drills, plays, discipline and strength training by Mack Brown, Butch Davis, and other professional coaches and high school coaches from all over the country. Chase is the son of Doug and Angie Hoyt.

Critical nursing shortage

by Carolyn Gunning Ph.D., R.N.

The nursing shortage in Texas has reached a critical stage, and the problem is only getting worse. Steps must be taken to address the issues involved in order to attract and retain more students to this field that is so vital to our healthcare system. The problem is complex, but the underlying issue is that fewer

and fewer young people are choosing nursing as a field. In a recent Texas survey, only 14% of the registered nurses in the sample were age 30 or younger. In comparison, 30% were 31-45 and 30% were 46-55.

Texas Woman's University is the leading institution in the state in nursing training, with campuses in Denton, Houston and Dallas, producing more new nurses each year than any other program in

Texas. While enrollments in nursing programs in Texas overall have been declining for the past six years, TWU has maintained its enrollment levels and has continued to graduate about 230 new nurses each year.

There are several factors contributing to the declining enrollments. Perhaps the most significant is that while more men are choosing nursing as a career than in the past, the profession remains primarily female. And today's women have many other career options that pay significantly better. (For example, about 50% of dental and law school students are now women.)

In addition, nursing is not viewed by the public as a profession requiring intellectual ability and decision-making skills, partly due to the way nurses are portrayed in the media. (For example, in the movie Meet the Parents, a running gag line is the fact that the groom-to-be is a male nurse.) The media does not portray the real role that nurses play in the recovery of patients. The primary image continues to be as a helper,

subservient to others.

But perhaps the biggest issue is that salaries are not in line with job responsibilities. While beginning salaries are low, the most significant problem is salary compression over the course of a career. Nurses with extensive experience do not make much more than new graduates.

All of these issues need to be addressed, and if they are, the future could be bright for the nursing field. Research is proving that nursing care makes a difference in patient outcomes, and the pivotal role that nursing plays is beginning to be recognized.

The field needs to attract non-traditional groups, including men (now only 7% of the profession) and minorities. We are already making some significant inroads: at TWU, the College of Nursing has increased its minority enrollment to 41%.

We also need to create a work environment that recognizes the value of nurses and gives them autonomy of practice and a role in institutional governance. Salary structures need to be developed that recognize the im-

portance of nursing and reward those who continue to work in the direct care of patients.

The bottom line is that while the supply is shrinking, the demand is increasing. There is an increase in need for hospital nurses at the same time more nurses are needed in other non-hospital settings. Population growth, especially of aging individuals, contributes to the increased demand.

Now is the time to aggressively seek solutions. At Texas Woman's University, we will continue to do our part in attracting and training the most highly qualified students from throughout the state to nursing. The medical field must ensure that the nursing profession is respected and rewarding, both on a personal and financial level.

Carolyn Gunning, Ph.D., is a registered nurse and is dean of the College of Nursing at Texas Woman's University.

The word "ballad" comes from the Italian ballare, meaning "to dance." Ballads were originally songs sung to dance music.

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