

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

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Friday, June 28, 2002

Fort Chadbourne Days attracts over 700 visitors

The Bronte Chamber of Commerce and the Fort Chadbourne Foundation held its annual event at Historic Fort Chadbourne on June 22, 2002. The first Fort Chadbourne Days event at the fort hosted over 700 visitors, 87 re-enactors and volunteers, and 40 vendors. Volunteers are the backbone of any event and helped make this event a success.

Participants in Fort Chadbourne Days included Fort Concho, Fort Lancaster, Fort Parker, Fort McKavett, Fort Hood, Frontiersman, Soap maker, Chuck Wagon - James Butler, Fort Chadbourne Black Powder Shooting Club, Concho Valley Archeology Society and Jimmy Sterling and ranch hands with the cattle demonstration and the Texas Gun Slingers.

Speakers for the day were Preston Lewis from San Angelo "Buffalo Hunting" and Henry Crawford from Lubbock at the Texas Tech Southwest Collection, "Buffalo Soldiers". Also Helen Garrison from Fort Worth, "Granny G's Story Telling" stories from women in the 1800s and early 1900s. Tim Yandell was introduced as the new Texas Forts Trail Coordinator. Tim lives in Abilene, Texas, and is excited about promoting the Texas

Forts Trail. The Texas Fiddlers were a huge hit! Everyone enjoyed listening to these talented high school kids. Little ones were kicking up their heels to the music.

Admission was charged to cover expenses but the event exceeded \$1040.00 and proceeds will go toward the reconstruction of the east barracks building. The Fort received \$2460.00 in reconstruction donations.

New Driver License office days told

Beginning July 1, 2002, the new schedule for driver license service will be from 9 am until 12 noon and from 1 pm until 4 pm the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.

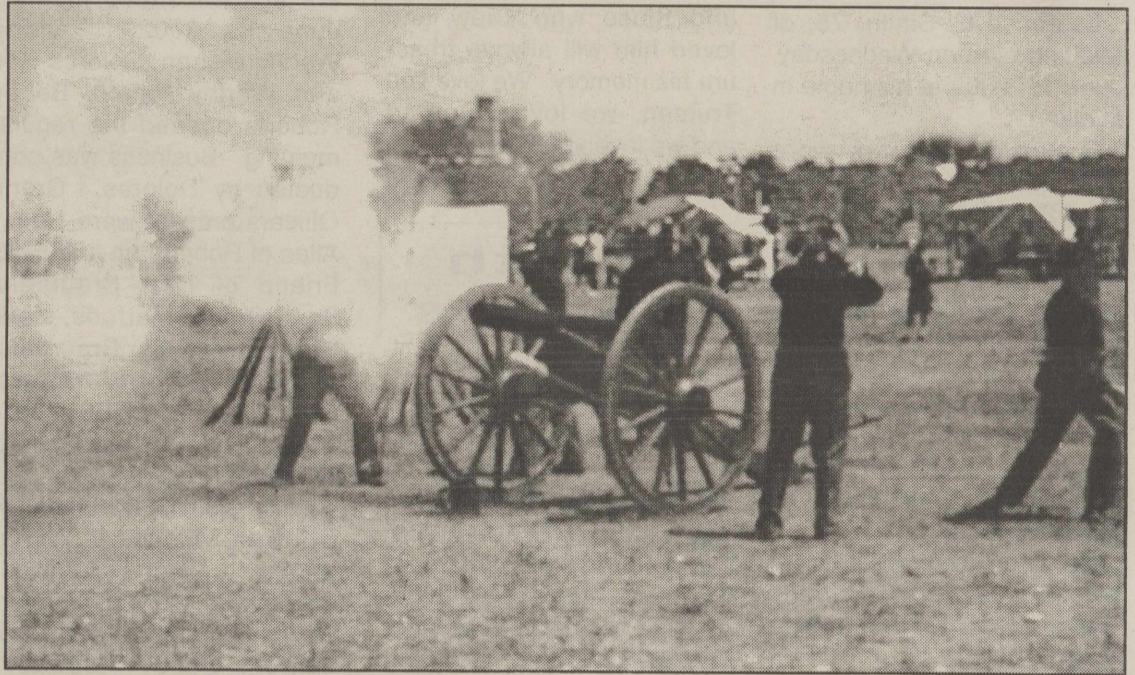
The office is located at the Coke County Courthouse in Robert Lee.

County 4-H camp

County 4-H camp will be held at Buffalo Gap, July 18 & 19, 2002. Cost of county camp will be \$20.00. All 4-H members are eligible to attend. Please contact the Extension office at 453-2461 by July 1, 2002, to register.

Courthouse to close

The Coke County Courthouse will be closed on Thursday, July 4th, in observance of Independence Day. Business will resume on Friday, July 5th.



One of the many unique and interesting sights visitors to Fort Chadbourne were treated to during Fort Chadbourne Days was the firing of the cannon by re-enactment soldiers from various forts along the Texas Forts Trail. The event was held at Fort Chadbourne Saturday, June 22.

City Halls to close

Bronte City Hall and Robert Lee City Hall will be closed on Thursday, July 4th, in observance of Independence Day.

Fireworks banned in Robert Lee

Robert Lee City officials wish to remind residents of the city that all fireworks are banned within the city limits. Any person that violates this ordinance may be issued a citation and fined. This ordinance is available at City Hall. Residents are urged to call the local law enforcement to report any violations.

Fireworks prohibited inside Bronte

Bronte residents are reminded that the use of fireworks within the city limits is prohibited by city ordinance.

Any person or persons who violate this Ordinance shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$500.00.

For more information regarding the City's Fireworks Ordinance, contact the City Hall at 473-3501.

Bruckner to autograph books

Former Robert Lee High graduate is coming back to visit and sign her book of grandmother stories.

Jane Austin Bruckner will be at the Coke County Library on Friday, July 12th, 10 - 12 am.

All proceeds from the book will benefit the Coke County Historical Society.

Turn Around Downtown to meet Thursday at 5:00

The Turn Around Downtown Association (TADA) will meet Thursday, June 27, in the Coke County Library at 5:00 pm.

This year, the Street Affair will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2002. This pre-planning meeting is to discuss the city brochure distributed to travelers, travel cen-

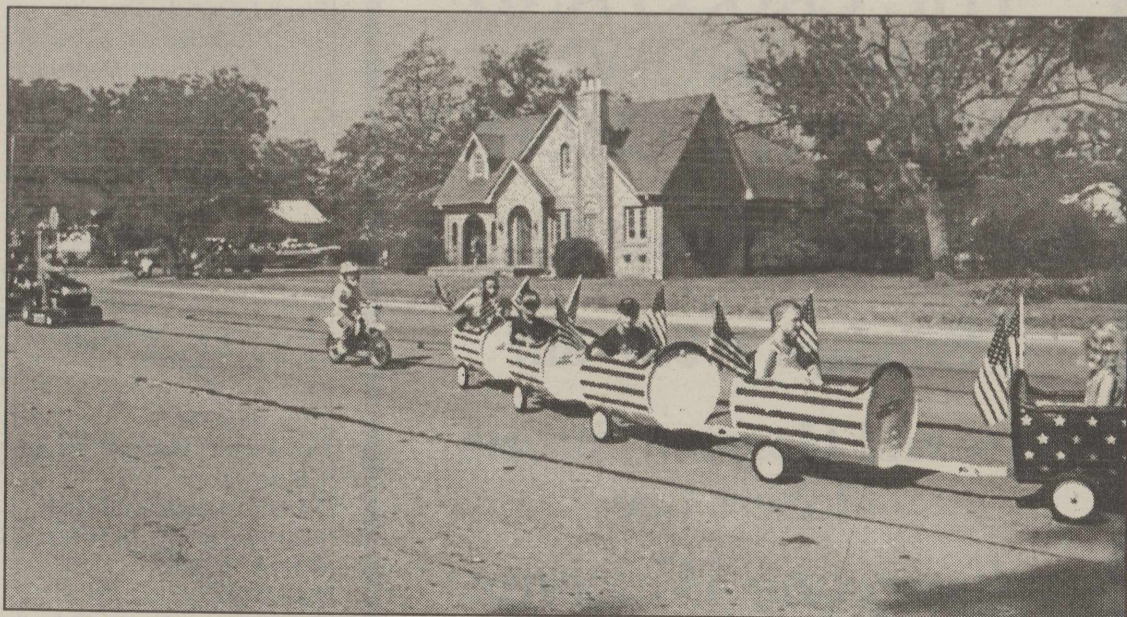
ters, and local stores. Other items for discussion include booth guidelines, parade, art exhibit, dessert cookoff, antique car show, talent show, and other possibilities for the event.

The Street Affair is an event planned to gather the community together. It is also an opportunity to provide a fund-raising day for non-profits, provide a showcase for artists and a market for crafters, introduce visitors to Robert Lee, and provide attendees with a good time.

Dedicated people have volunteered to chair some of the events. As always, the need for real, live people to participate is great. October 5 seems a long way off, but it's actually three short months from now. The more pre-publicity the Street Affair gets, the bigger and better it will be. The most welcomed words in the world are, "What are you doing, and how can I help."

4-H BBQ raffle

The Coke County 4-H Club members who attended the 4-H State Roundup are selling raffle tickets for a brisket, beans, potato salad and dessert dinner slated for July 4th. You may also pick up tickets for the dinner at the Extension office in the courthouse in Robert Lee.



These children show their patriotism by riding in the red, white, and blue "Stars and Stripes" train in the parade held during Fort Chadbourne Days in Bronte on June 22, 2002.

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

----- Obituaries -----

Smith

Laurence E. Smith, 75, of Midland died on Wednesday, June 19, 2002 at his home in Midland.

Graveside services were held at 10:00 am Saturday, June 22, 2002 at the Fairview Cemetery in Bronte with Reverend Larry Gilbreath officiating. Services were under the direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

Mr. Smith was born on June 3, 1927 in Maverick, Texas. He served in the U.S. Army and retired with the U.S. Postal Service.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Dorothy Carlene Smith on September 5, 1998.

Survivors include a son, Stephen H. Smith of Bloomfield, New Mexico; a daughter, Gayla A. McSpadden of Midland, Texas; one brother, Troy Smith of Mesquite, Texas; two grandsons, Wade McSpadden of Midland and Stephen Smith of Bloomfield, NM and one granddaughter, Gayla Dawn of Bloomfield, NM.

He will be greatly missed and we will always remember him for his love and kindness.

Memorials can be made to Hospice of Midland, P.O. Box 2621, Midland, Texas 79702.

48-1tc

Sancher

Truman Clay Sancher, beloved husband and father of two daughters and two wonderful granddaughters, left this world on Tuesday June 18, 2002. Truman was born in May 1934 at his parents' home in Portales, New Mexico and is survived by his mother, wife, daughters, son-in-law and granddaughters. Truman Sancher served our county in the U.S. Army and worked as a computer engineer throughout his life. He loved his family, his country, and the outdoors, in particular gardening and fishing. Truman also was an avid reader.

Services were held at 3:00 pm on Saturday, June 22, 2002 at Ft. Chadbourne Cemetery. Visitation was held at Shaffer Funeral Home in Bronte on Friday evening June 21st and Saturday morning prior to the service.

He will be forever missed and those who knew and loved him will always treasure his memory. We love you Truman, we love you Dad and we love you Paw-Paw.

48-1tc

Death Notices

Robertson

Samuel Bradley Robertson, 77, of Oak Creek Lake died Tuesday, June 25, 2002, at his residence. Memorial service will be held at 2:00 pm today, June 28, 2002, at Central Baptist Church. Arrangements are by Shaffer Funeral Home.

Survivors include his wife, Lillie Robertson of Oak Creek Lake; two daughters, Jolinda Moore and Patricia Hazen of Phoenix; three sons, Randel Robertson of Oak Creek Lake, Larry Robertson of Madisonville, Kentucky, and Brad Robertson of Phoenix; two sisters, Wanda Andrako of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Mutt Autry of Morton, Texas.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that memorials be made to Hospice of San Angelo.

Blood drive slated for Wackenhut

United Blood Services will be at Wackenhut Correctional Facility on Friday, July 5th from 9:30 am until 12:20 pm. Call George Cormack at 473-5700 for an appointment.

"I know everyone is making plans for the 4th," said Johnna Pevey, Community Relations Representative. "Our plans and hopes are to have enough blood for the long weekend. Please make our hopes a reality."

Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh more than 110 pounds and be in good health. You will need proof of

"...Thank you for caring so much and not treating us like paperwork, but like people."



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CARWILE INSURANCE 453-2522

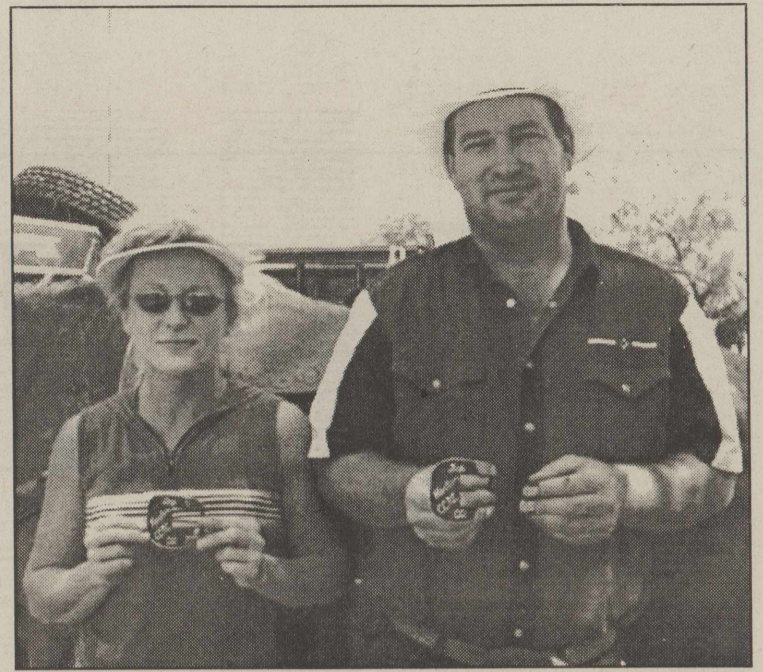
identification and know the names of any medication you may have taken in the past 30 days. UBS is the area's not-for-profit provider. In order to supply the 12 area hospitals, UBS must collect more than 300 units each week. Blood products have a shelf life of 5 to 42 days. Your help is needed. If you would like to make an appointment to give blood, please call the local Bronte number or 653-1307. Please try to make an appointment. It will help get you in and out in a timely manner.

Eastern Star installs new officers

Robert Lee Chapter No. 187 Order of the Eastern Star installed a new slate of officers at their stated meeting June 13, 2002. Retiring Worthy Matron, Dolores Roe and Worthy Patron, Bobby Roberts opened the regular meeting. Business was conducted by Dolores. Grand Officers present were Nancy Allen of Robert Lee and Betty Friend of New Braunfels, Past Grand Matrons; Jack Friend of New Braunfels, Georgia Orr of Winters, Gayna Eldred of Blackwell, and Jeffie and Bobby Roberts of Robert Lee.

Officers for 2002-2003 are Dolores Roe - Worthy Matron, James (Red) Stephens - Worthy Patron, Jeffie Roberts - Associate Matron, Bobby Roberts - Associate Patron, Beverly Sinclair - Secretary, Reba Tabor - Treasurer, Jackie Walker - Conductress, Nancy Allen - Associate Conductress, Leonard Leverington - Chaplain, Melba Gray - Marshal, Mary Belle Hilliard - Organist, Lois Leverington - Adah, Dovie Cummins - Ruth, Tammy Roe - Esther, Gayna Eldred - Martha, Mary Beth Drennan - Electa, Buddy Eldred - Warder, and Kevin Roe - Sentinel.

Installing Officers were Ettie



Cindy Saunders and Johnny Moore took home the handmade buckles at the Coke County Roping Club Buckle Roping held Sunday, June 23, 2002.

Hubbard - Installing Officer, Peggy Glascock - Installing Marshal, Dian Coulter - Installing Secretary, Grady Coulter - Installing Chaplain, Sterling Myers - Installing Organist, Betty Friend - Installing Warder and Jack Friend - Installing Sentinel. Following the meeting, delicious food and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Members and visitors were from Bronte, Winters, Robert Lee, and New Braunfels.

Order of the Eastern Star presents scholarship

Dolores Roe, Worthy Matron of Robert Lee Chapter No. 187, Order of the Eastern Star, presented the chapter's \$300 scholarship at the Robert Lee High School Award Program. The 2002 recipient was Bobbie Sparks, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Bucky Sparks of Robert Lee.

Time for Vacation Bible School

Picture yourself at God's Great Gallery during Vacation Bible School 2002 at the First United Methodist Church, Sterling City. The fun will be

held Monday, July 8 through Thursday, July 11 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am each day. Ages four to sixth grade are welcome to participate.

Come and see what God has done! For more information call the church office at 378-3891 or Linda Horwood at 378-8401.



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. Steve Rowe, 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 & 6 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

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 • 6th & Houston
(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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THE CROSS AND THE CROWN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Non-Denominational Worship
Sundays • 9:30 am
1st and Houston Streets
Robert Lee
Everyone Welcome
Rev. Jim Reeves, Pastor

Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting

Save the Jail project gains momentum

The Save the Jail project is gaining momentum. The Coke County Historical Commission's booth on June 22 at the Fort Chadbourne Days event was met with interest and enthusiasm. The raffle ticket for the Ted Disko replica of the jail raised more than \$50 and the sale of Jane Austin Bruckner's book, Grandmother Stories, raised a significant amount. Mrs. Austin donated a number of her books to be sold by the Historical Commission for the renovation effort of the old jail.

Bonita Copeland, whose father was the last sheriff and whose mother and father were the last family to occupy the old jail, is heading up a project to do a historical account and personal memories collection of the jail. Any descendant of any of the early sheriffs who would be willing to share memorabilia or pictures or stories can call Mrs. Copeland at (915) 453-2698, or write to her at 209 West 14th, Robert Lee, TX 76945. Anyone with a tale to tell about the jail should contact her also.

This project will fill a sizeable gap in Coke County history. Those who share information with Mrs. Copeland will be leaving a legacy for the future.

Last week the Coke County crews performed a much-needed and appreciated service by moving the remaining items from the jail to a storage unit donated by Clendennen Storage.

Hospice volunteers needed

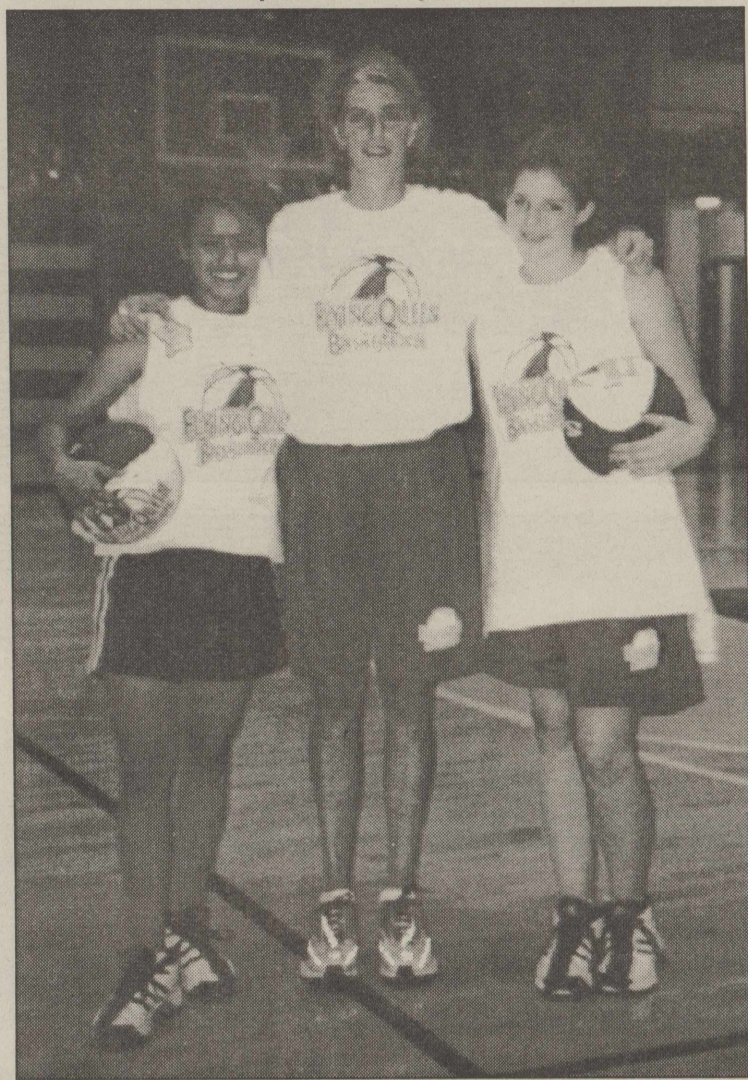
Medicare requires a certain portion of all hospice work to be done by volunteers. The need for volunteers is never ending. VistaCare is offering free training for all individuals wanting to offer their time and talents to help hospice patients during the later stages of their lives. Volunteers do not have to have previous medical skills. Volunteers are needed to "just be there" for the patient.

Call or stop by today for the **investments you need** and the **excellent service you deserve.**



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Monica Rodriguez (left) and Tyler Lott (right) attended the six day varsity and shooting "Flying Queens" Basketball Camp at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview. The girls received awards in 3 on 3, best jump shot, best attitude, and best hustling. Flying Queens head coach Johnna Pointer is shown with the girls who will be juniors at Robert Lee High School in the fall. Jodee Helwig, a 2002 RLHS graduate, is attending WBU and will play for the Flying Queens.

Hospice patients may have no family members and are lonely. They often want to visit. They want to talk to anyone and maybe enjoy a glass of juice together.

Volunteers are also needed to do clerical work in the office. Individuals who knit are needed to make afghans and blankets for patients. With summer upon us yard work is always a needed skill.

Any person wanting to volunteer will be trained and certified to work with any hospice patient.

The training is free. All training will be held on Monday evenings at the VistaCare offices located at 940 B Arroyo in San Angelo. The time of the training will be from 6-7:30 pm. Please call Jill Stewart for additional information at 915-947-0123.

HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

All facilities of these banks will be **CLOSED Thursday, July 4**

In Observance Of
Independence Day 4TH OF JULY

Please plan your banking requirements during regular banking hours to avoid any inconvenience.

Robert Lee State Bank
First National Bank in Bronte

Member FDIC
453-2545
Robert Lee, TX

Member FDIC
473-2911
Bronte, TX

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501 Commerce - Robert Lee, TX

Store Hrs: Mon.-Sat. 8-8 Sun. 8-6

SPECIALS GOOD 6/26 Thru 7/2

Family Pack
USDA Fresh • 80% Lean
Ground Beef
Lb. **.99**

Boneless Rump or Bottom
Round Roast

Lb. **\$1.39**



Regular or Mesquite

Decker Meat Franks

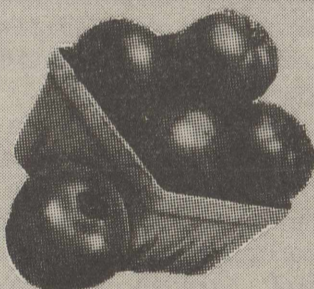
2 12 oz. pkg. **/\$1**



IGA

Hamburger or Hot Dog Buns

2 8 ct. pkg. **/\$1**



Hot House

Tomatoes

Lb. **.49**

Selected Varieties

Ranch Style Beans

4 15 oz. cans **/\$1**



Cello Head

Lettuce

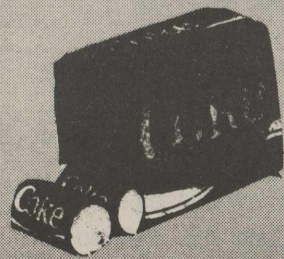
Ea. **.49**



Sprite or Coca Cola

12 Pack
12 Ounce
Cans

\$2.89



ASU Dinner Theater presents "The Fantasticks"

The Arts at ASU Theatre season opens with the summer dinner theatre production of THE FANTASTICKS, which is America's longest running and most loved musical, having run for 42 years. THE FANTASTICKS was created by the famous musical team of Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt.

THE FANTASTICKS runs June 25-July 1. Reservations for this Arts at ASU production may be made beginning June 17th by calling 942-2000.

BISD board news

The Bronte ISD Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on June 13, 2002, at 7:00 pm. Bob Frazee was absent from the meeting.

The principals reported on various activities. Consideration and approval were given on the following items: Renewal of Agreement with GM Southwest for Student Insurance for 2002-2003, Engagement Letter with Burl Lowery, CPA, for the 2001-2002 Annual Audit, Renewal of Workers' Compensation for three years with Hibbs-Hallmark (CAS), and the payment of May bills.

The board discussed and approved the easements for the network cable to CCJJC. July 25, 2002, 7:00 pm was set for a budget workshop.

The Superintendent, Alan Richey's report included updates on facilities and construction, and funding of employee benefits. Mr. Richey reported on letters from TEA showing a favorable and clean financial audit for 2000-2001 and the adjustments made to the final student attendance audit for 1998-99.

Board correspondence included registration for the Annual TASB Conference September 27-30, 2002.

Personnel items included the hiring of Michael Bohensky as CCJJC Principal and head girls' basketball coach. Alan Richey, Superintendent reported on the hiring of Auxiliary Personnel as follows: Kristi Andrews, Day Care Director, Tami Richards, Assistant Day Care Director and Donna Evans, Elementary Librarian Aide.

The board accepted the bid from Molly Childs for the purchase of a lot in the Maxwell addition.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm by the president. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be July 11, 2002 at 7:00 pm.

West Texas Junior Champions Tour results

- June 7th - Eden
- 8-11 boys
- 5th - Mason Ross - 42
- 12-13 boys
- 3rd - Johnathan Pagan - 83
- 16-18 boys
- Cody Bridges - 45
- June 11th - Eldorado
- 8-11 boys

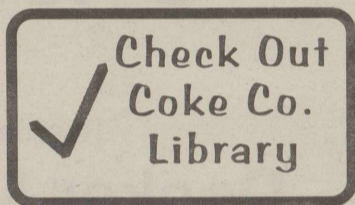
- 5th - Mason Ross - 41
- 12-13 boys
- 2nd - Johnathan Pagan - 78
- June 13th - San Angelo
- 12-14 girls
- 3rd - Sarah Basquez - 123
- June 17th - Ft. Stockton
- 8-11 boys
- 2nd - Mason Ross - 45
- June 19th - Ozona
- 12-13 boys
- 6th - Johnathan Pagan - 91
- June 20th - Mason
- 12-13 boys
- 2nd - Johnathan Pagan - 77

Artists of the American West

"Artists of the American West comes to Fort Concho, July 4-August 16, 2002.

To help celebrate our nation's birthday on Thursday, July 4, Fort Concho National Historic Landmark will open the "Artists of the American West" exhibit in the fort's Quartermaster Galleries. An opening ceremony with the Fort Concho Living History Program, including a patriotic salute with the artillery, will open the display at 9:00 am.

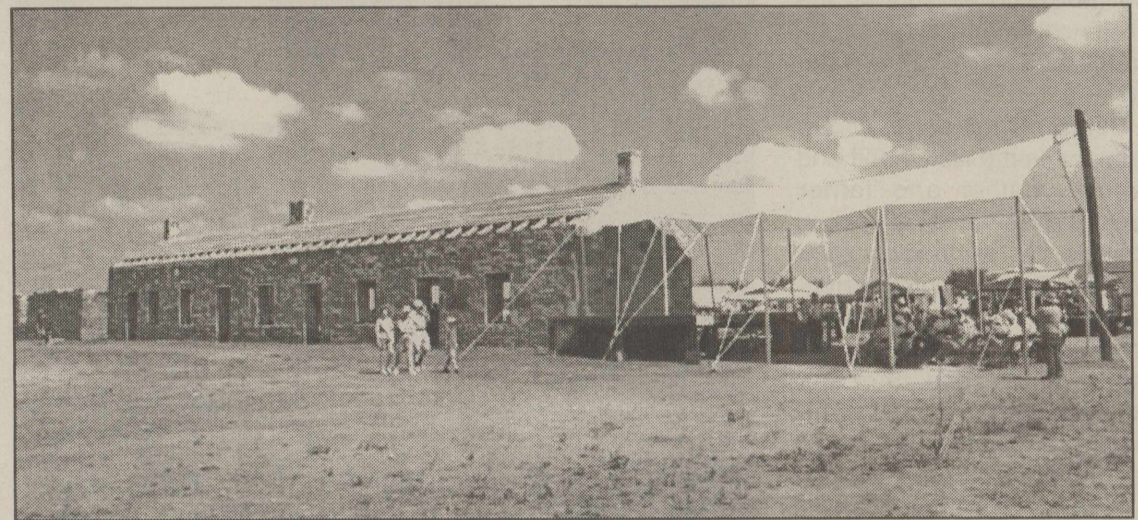
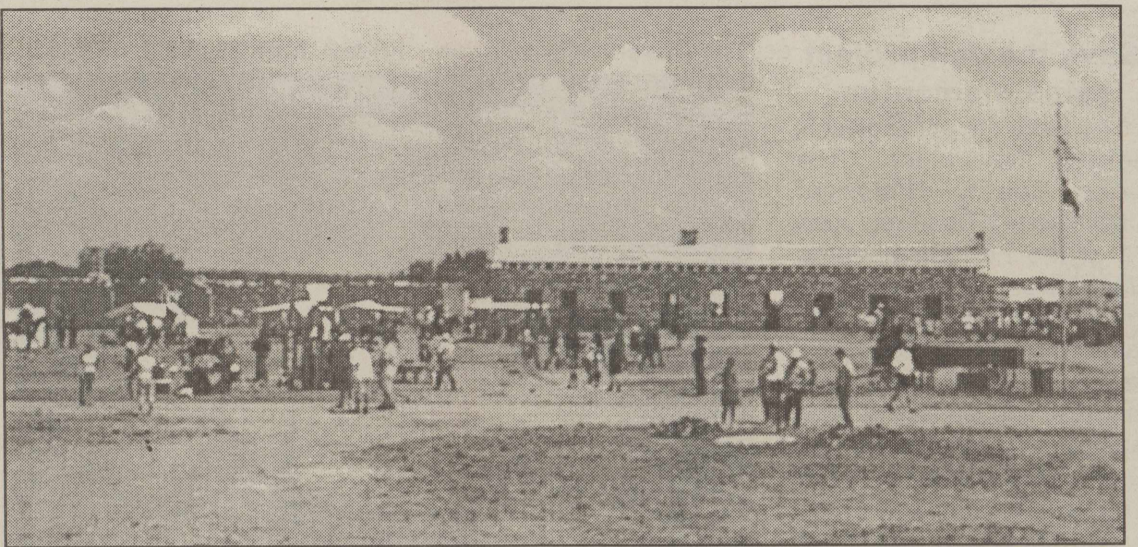
Refreshments will be available and there is no charge for this day's program.



The Coke County Library is pleased to announce that Jane Austin Bruckner will be at the Library on Friday, July 12, 2002, to sign copies of her book Grandmother Stories From The Heart of Texas. Mrs. Bruckner will be here from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Mrs. Austin is the granddaughter of Eva Rice Nunn Byrd and Arminta Angelina DeLong Austin of Coke County. The book includes stories from Bill Allen, Bonita Copeland, Elmer Kelton, June Gulley, Fran Lomas and other citizens of this county.

Coke County is fortunate to have historians who care enough about the legacies of the county to make a commitment to preserving the stories in print. Compiling information



Over 700 visitors attended Fort Chadbourne Days Saturday, June 22, 2002. This was the first year the event was held at Fort Chadbourne. Visitors enjoyed re-enactments, speakers and displays of artifacts at the celebration. The historic fort, located 12 miles north of Bronte on US Highway 277, is part of the Texas Forts Trail and is currently in the process of being restored.

and seeing to the printing of a book takes great personal commitment, time, money, and concern. It is not an easy task.

Ashley Hopson was the winner in the summer reading program drawing. Her prize was an art book on drawing insects. Each week a drawing is held from names submitted by summer readers. For every book returned, readers may add their names to the drawing. Readers who return four books can add their name four times to the drawing. A treat of the week is available every day for summer readers.

Several book donations have been received and the library is appreciative of this support.

Library hours are Tuesday, 8 am - 12 noon; Wednesday, 8 am - 4 pm; Thursday, 1 pm - 5 pm; Friday, 8 am - 4 pm. Books may be returned to the book drop in front of the library and the Main Street Market in Bronte.

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Bell Auto Body Shop
 Robert Lee 453-2640

PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH RATES

Pursuant to Section 104.103 of the Texas Utilities Code, TXU Lone Star Pipeline (TXU LSP), a division of TXU Gas Company, hereby gives notice of intent to establish a supplemental rate identified as the "Integrity and Safety Assessment" (ISA) to track and recover costs of implementing its Pipeline Integrity Assessment and Management Plan and costs of system modification required by class location changes. The Pipeline Integrity Assessment and Management Plan is required by the Railroad Commission of Texas (Commission) pursuant to its Pipeline Safety Regulations, Rule § 8.101, while class location changes are necessary to comply with the Federal Minimum Pipeline Safety Regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 192, adopted by the Commission.

The proposed initial rate for the ISA is 2.05 cents per MMBtu, and is proposed to take effect as of July 1, 2002. The rate will be adjusted each year to reflect the change in costs necessitated by the pipeline safety regulations, with an opportunity for those costs to be reviewed by the Commission. The ISA will remain in effect for ten years from its initial effective date. The ISA constitutes a major change as that term is defined in Sec. 104.101, Texas Utilities Code. The proposed rate will increase the total revenues of TXU LSP by 3.7%, representing \$4.1 million of additional revenues.

The ISA will apply to the following classes of customers: 1) TXU LSP's customers with gas consuming equipment at an end-use location physically attached to TXU LSP's pipeline system or to the system of a local distribution company physically attached to TXU LSP's pipeline system; 2) entities selling gas to such customers; and 3) local distribution companies served by TXU LSP's pipeline system. The ISA will indirectly affect all residential and commercial customers served by such local distribution customers, including TXU Gas Distribution. At the proposed initial rate of 2.05 cents per MMBtu, the bill of an average residential customer (6 mcf of gas consumption per month) will increase approximately 12 cents per month.

A Statement of Intent to implement the ISA has been filed with the Commission in GUD Docket No. 9304 and is available for inspection at the Commission's office at 1701 North Congress, Austin, Texas, and at the offices of TXU LSP at 301 South Harwood, Dallas, Texas. Any affected person may file written comments or a protest concerning the proposed changes in the rates with the Docket Services Section of the Office of General Counsel, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, at any time on or before July 26, 2002. Any person or agency that has a justiciable or administratively cognizable interest in this proceeding who desires to be designated as a party may petition for leave to intervene and request to become a party to this proceeding. The deadline for intervention in this case shall be July 26, 2002.



Private Christopher Long

Long completes basic training

Private Christopher Long, of the United States Army, completed his basic training February 14, 2002 at the U.S. Army Field Artillery Training Center at Fort Sill, OK. He served in the Bravo Battery, Second Platoon "Night Hawks." He then went on to complete the rest of his training on April 26, 2002 at the Air Defense Artillery School at Fort Bliss, TX. There he served as an avenger crew member. He is currently stationed in Germany.

Chris is the son of Vicky Calzada and brother of Chrystal Long of Brenham, TX. Chris is also the son of Richard Long of Sweetwater.

Maternal grandparents are Ivan & Iris Conner of Robert Lee, Uncle Vic & Aunt Von, cousins, Josh, Chelsea & J.P. Conner also of Robert Lee and Aunt Becky & family of Linden, TX.

Paternal grandparents are Melba Long and the late Otho Long of Robert Lee, Uncle Kyle & family, Uncle Randy & family also of Robert Lee. There are many other extended family members that also reside in Robert Lee.

Artists invited to exhibit in Street Affair

The city of Robert Lee is inviting artists to exhibit during the annual Street Affair to be held Saturday, October 5, 2002.

The juried show will consist of paintings, sculpture and photography. The center of the exhibit will be those works most representative of Coke County; the country, the animals, the weather, the people, the landmarks, etc. are considered to be subjects for this special exhibit. Two works can be considered from each entrant.

A grand prize cash award will be given at the preview reception on Friday, October 2, 2002, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Photographs or slides of entries are due August 28th-30th and should be mailed to the Coke County Library, P.O. Box 637, Robert Lee, Texas 76945. A stamped self-addressed envelope should accompany submissions and the artist's name and address should appear on each slide or photo.

SACHS reunion slated for August

On August 30th and 31st, 2002, the San Angelo Central High School classes of 1967 and 1968 will host a reunion which will be open to all SACHS graduates from the class of 1965 through 1969.

For reunion details as they develop or for information concerning classmates of 1965-1969 who have moved or are missing and for those interested in attending, please see the reunion website or contact a reunion representative.

Reunion website, www.angelfire.com/tx/68central/60reunion.html. Contact for class of '67, Herschel Carmichael 658-7221; class of '68, Shireen Jackson 653-4638.

All classmates are invited to join in the planning stages for the reunion. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the San Angelo National Bank downstairs meeting room.

Out of the Ordinary

by Jane Austin Bruckner

How blessed we Americans are to enjoy freedom and opportunity. Even in our deeply troubled world, we are confident Americans understand the value of defending our country. We are grateful to those who have and who continue to pay the price of freedom. Just before the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776 in Philadelphia, John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail, "I am aware of the toil and blood and treasure that it will cost us to maintain this declaration and support and defend these states. Yet through all the gloom I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory." I found these words in a delightful book, Letters of a Nation, Edited by Andrew Carroll, which gives insight into our founding fathers, few of them rich, famous or educated but they had spiritual wealth and character. Marian Edelman calls these letters jewels of hope that gleam as brilliantly today as when they were first written. These letters affirm that we - as individuals and as a nation - share universal aspirations and anxieties and a common resilience in times of personal and social crisis. Each of us, we discover, weaves a thread that contributes to the overall strength of our national fabric. We all know men and women who have given their lives that we might live in the light and glory.

Through my genealogical research have found those of my ancestors who fought in the American Revolution and realize how they put their lives/money where their mouth was, for freedom. The attitude of that generation was: The difficult we do first, the impossible will take a little longer.

On the evening of July 4th I go with friends to the oldest cemetery in Fort Worth, on a rise across the Trinity River overlooking downtown Fort Worth for a enormous fireworks show presented by the City celebrating our independence. Upon reflection, it's incredible that it is not spooky to spend the evening in the cemetery on this vacant area of big trees reserved for future need. The graves, all neatly maintained have newly planted small flags. Several families in our group walk to visit their ancestors grave at this time. We arrive early to share a picnic, enjoy



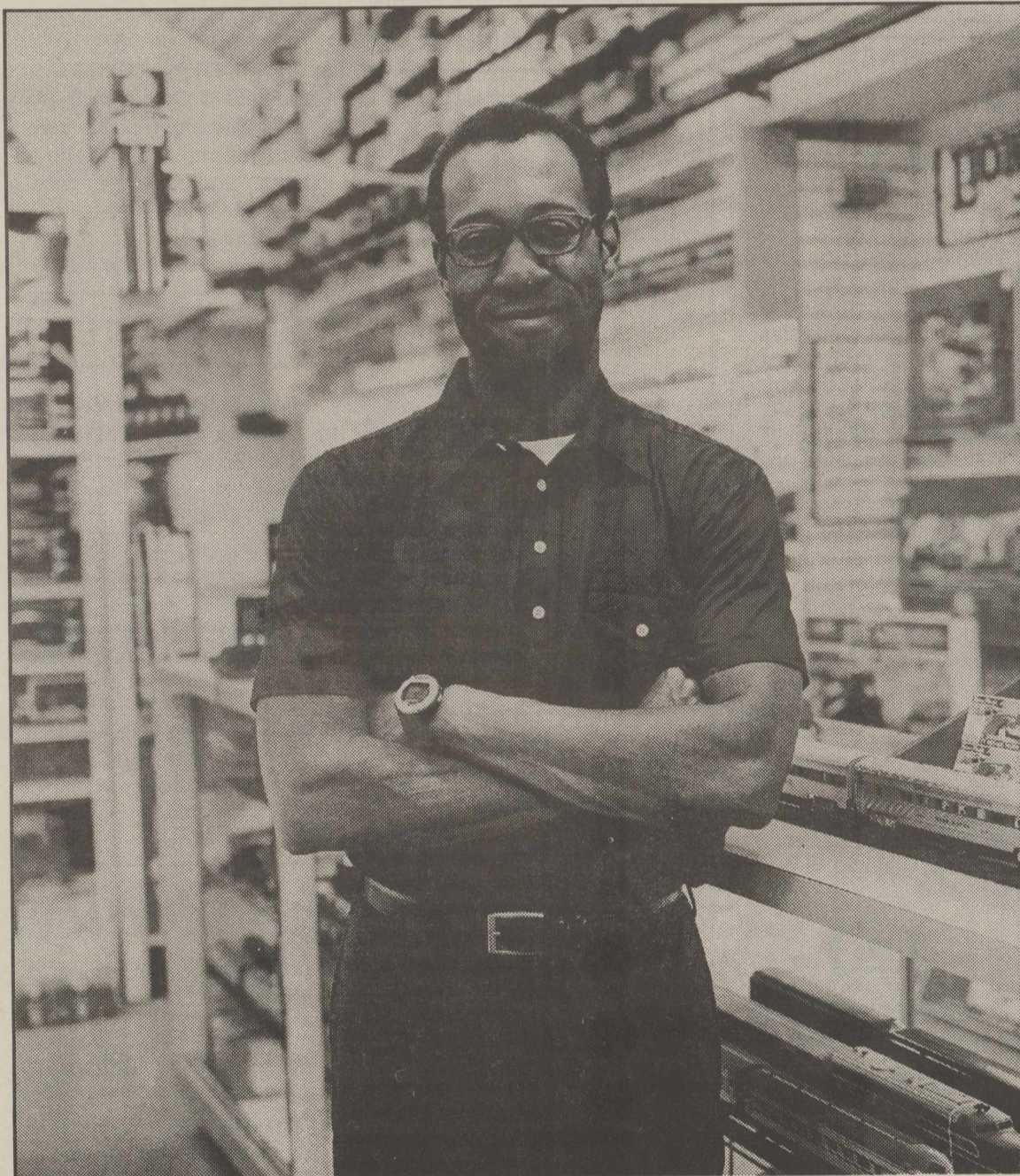
These adults and children not only participated in the Fort Chadbourne Days parade held in Bronte Saturday morning, June 22, but they also let those watching the parade know about the vacation bible school that started the following day.

seeing old friends and making new ones, we remember "Our obligations to our country never cease but with our lives (John Adams.)" After sundown, the light and sound show begins. Boom Boom Boom. Ahhh. So beautiful. Ahh. So powerful and

colorful. Boom Boom Boom. As we sing the Star Spangled Banner, I am deeply grateful the flag is still there.

Do take time to write a letter(s) to people who would appreciate it this Fourth of July. Debbie Wilkes wrote a letter in the May

24 edition of The Observer/Enterprise about "My Son, The Soldier." Debbie knows the power of letters and love and daily prayer for Our Country, Our Leaders, and World Peace. Thank you Debbie for your gift of the letter.



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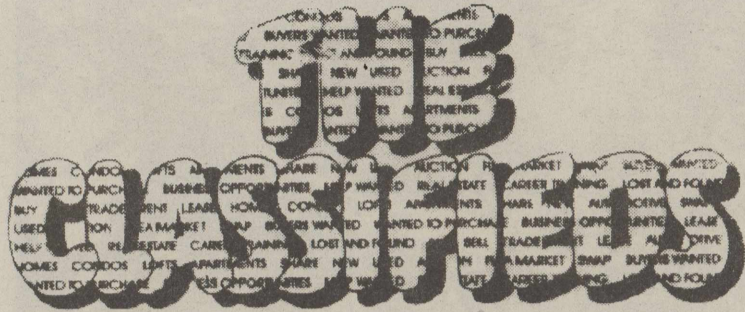


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 New Listing, 4 BR, 2 BA Brick Home, over 2100 sq. ft. in a good location

Brick home, 2 BR, 1 BA, 2 Living Areas or 3rd BR, CA/CH

4 BR, 2 BA, Fenced Backyard, \$20s

Oak Creek Lake, 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA, Enclosed garage with attached office, floating boat dock

Lake Spence Area, 2 BR, 1 BA, Ceramic tile, sundeck, detached guest quarters.

Robert Lee

New Listing, 2 BR, 1 BA with upstairs garage apartment

3 BR, 2 BA, Brick, Storm Basement

3 BR, 1 1/2 BA, Brick home, 2 lots, Carport, Storage building

Priced to Sell, 4 BR, 2 bth, large den with second living area. CA/CH over 2100 sq. ft.

Priced reduced, 2 BR, 1 bth, CA/CH, sunroom or 3rd BR, large kitchen, single garage, over 1800 sf

Commercial building, Highway 158 in Robert Lee, 5054 SF Display Area, 1947 SF Garage, 1125 SF Storage, 2 floor jacks

1000+/- AC. Hunters cabin, Barn and Pens, rolling cedar hills, deep headers, excellent hunting

837+/- AC. Rough Cedar Hills, Mountainous Area, 2 Water Wells, Choice Hunting

500+/- AC. Deep Creek, rolling Cedar Hills, Rural Water, Great Hunting

448+/- AC. electricity, good water and excellent hunting.

320+/- AC. highway and county road access. Choice building site. Convenient to Bronte. Seller will divide.

110+/- Acres, waterwell, view of Lake Spence.

Other Listings Available

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Debora England, 223 N Lombard, Bronte. -473-4026. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. 9 am - 5 pm.

33-tnc

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37-tnc

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

34-tnc

HELP WANTED

IMMEDIATE OPENING

for full time LVN. 6A - 6 P. Contact Sarah Lee at Senior Citizens Nursing Home in Winters, 754-4566.

50-tnc



24 hr. Emergency Water Damage Service

DIRECTOR/TEACHER WANTED

for the FUMC Pre-school in Sterling City 3 days/week. High School Diploma required. Applications may be picked up from Amanda Davis at the clinic in Sterling City through Tuesday, June 25. Questions? Call Amanda at 378-3300.

47-2tc

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF NURSING

Prefer RN, must be experienced in MDS, PPS, and TILES. References required. Privately owned nursing home. Paid health and life insurance, paid holidays and vacation. Competitive salary (worth the drive). Send resume to or contact Larry Wellhausen at Runnels County Rehabilitation and Nursing Center 1800 N. Broadway, Ballinger, Texas 76821, 915-365-2538 or fax 915-365-2530.

42-tnc

GARAGE SALES

ELM CREEK FLEA MARKET
 401 Park Avenue, Ballinger. 1st Saturday weekend each month. July 4, 5, 6, & 7th. 915-365-6382 or 915-365-2326.

48-1tp

EARLY BIRD'S PATIO SALE

7-11 am, Saturday, June 29, 501 N. Franklin, Bronte.

48-1tc

4 FAMILY GARAGE SALE

406 2nd & Alamo, Robert Lee. Clothes, dishes and other misc. 8 am - ?.

48-1tp

HOUSE OF BARGAINS

on Commerce Street, Robert Lee. Microwaves, computers & etc., and stoves. Too much to list. Don't miss this.

48-1tp

Hiring LVNs & CNAs

All shifts, full time, part time and PRN.

Contact Rhonda or Larry

Runnels County Rehabilitation and Nursing Center

1800 N. Broadway Ballinger, Texas

915-365-2538

Political Calendar

The Observer/Enterprise

has been authorized to make the following announcements for the political offices in Coke County.

Each candidate or the campaign treasurer has paid for his or her announcement. All political advertising, announcements, and printing is cash in advance.

U. S. CONGRESSMAN 17TH DISTRICT Charles Stenholm COKE COUNTY

JUDGE

Roy Blair

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 1

D. Joan Davis

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 2

Jack G. Moore

COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2

Bill Wheat

COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4

George Snapp

GARAGE SALE

Sat. 29th. 209 E. 3rd, Robert Lee. 7:00 am til ?

48-1tp

CARD OF THANKS

GARLAND AND I

would like to thank each and everyone one who supported Fort Chadbourne Days held at Fort Chadbourne this year. We feel the event was very successful and it brought out a lot of local people as well as people from around the state. We would like to thank the volunteers, re-enactors, vendors, AEP/WTU Retail Energy, Wells Fargo Bank in San Angelo, Bronte Chamber of Commerce, Bronte Jr. Chamber Members, Bronte Merchants, Jimmy Sterling and ranch hands, Preston Lewis, Henry Crawford, Helen Garrison, Texas Fiddlers, Concho Valley Archeology Society, KLST, San Angelo Standard Times, Archie Jobe and family, West Texas Rehab, Coke County Sheriff's Department, Observer Enterprise, Fort Chadbourne Black Powder Silhouette Club, Frontiersmen, Soap Kettle, Fort Concho, Fort Lancaster, Fort Hood, Fort McKavett, Fort Parker, Texas Gun Slingers, James Butler (Chuck Wagon) and all other volunteers and supporters that I have forgotten to mention. Coke County residents are fortunate to live in an area rich in history and we have alot to be proud of. I have had people tell me we can't do any better than this. Let's pull together and prove them wrong next year. Thanks for coming out and helping make this a successful event!

Lana & Garland Richards

48-1tc

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES

Rates when paid in advance.

First Insertion
 20¢ Per Word
 \$3 Minimum
 Subsequent Insertions
 16¢ Per Word
 \$2.50 Minimum

Additional 50¢ charged for Blind Ads

Legal Notices:
 25¢ Per Word

A service charge will be added to all ads which must be billed.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE
 Tuesdays at 5 pm

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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Frigidaire refrigerator with ice maker, 21.7 cubic feet. Excellent condition. Call 473-5701

48-1tc

FOR SALE

Electric (old) range. 453-5107.

47-2tc

FOR SALE

2 BR, 1 1/2 bath mobile home. Metal over roof extends into large carport. 817 Vicki St., Robert Lee. 453-2019.

46-4tp

FOR SALE

8 acres in Edith. Terms. 915-784-7912.

48-5tp

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 for information or
 915-473-9548

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44-51tp

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03-tnc

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PROFESSIONAL DOG GROOMING

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40-tnc

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45-8tc

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45-4tp

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3 BEDROOM BRICK HOME \$40'S! Updated Berber Carpet! Double Carport!

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980 ACRES Rugged, Rolling Pastureland!

750+ ACRES, Between Water Valley & Robert Lee!

160+/- ACRES Rural water & wells. Hilltop view!

CARD OF THANKS

THE FORT CHADBOURNE FOUNDATION AND BRONTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

would like to thank the following people for getting things ready for Fort Chadbourne Days held at the fort this year. Commissioner Bill Wheat for having the cemetery mowed and kept neat for Fort Chadbourne Days. Also to Douglas Roberts for having someone mow the highway so that it would not be dangerous for people coming and leaving the fort. We appreciate your help!

Garland and Lana Richards

NOTICES

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

District: San Angelo
Contract 0069-03-050 for SAFETY END TREAT STRUCTURES AND UPGRADE RAIL IN STERLING COUNTY, etc. will be opened on July 10, 2002 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or District Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 6721

State Office

Construction Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704

Phone: 512-416-2540

District Office(s)

San Angelo District
District Engineer

4502 Knickerbocker Rd.

San Angelo, Texas 76904

Phone: 915-944-1501

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

47-2tc

Brice reunion held

The annual Brice Reunion was held June 15th & 16th, 2002 at the Winters Community Center with 129 people attending.

Those attending were Mary Snow of Carlsbad, NM; Earl Brice, Jack and Earline Moore, Juanita Bradley, and Jo Ann Lightfoot of Bronte; Billy Brice of Sweetwater; W.A. & Dorothy Henley of Ingram; Dorene Schleyer of El Paso; Dane & Leslie Moore & family of Jacksonville, AR; Marvin & Faye Henager, Eddie & Vickie Watts and Amy, Janie Potts and boys, Gary & Melinda Brice and family of Belton; James & Teresa Long of Placedo; Leon & Maetta Brice

& grandchildren, Debbie & Eddie Parker, Gloria & Bobby Smith and daughter of Comanche; Patsy Roberson, Vonda Grun & girls of Tuscola; Lee Ann Fabry of Lubbock; J.D. & Harriette Brice of Ennis; Iris Coffey of Port Lavaca; Gene Brice, Bessie Brice of Robert Lee; Bryce Blakerley of La Porte; Kenneth & Cynthia Henager and girls of Moody; Christa McClellan & daughter of Houston area; Joyce Weidner, Dusty Weidner, Karl & Brenda Braden & family, Rocky & Donna Weidner, Rusty Weidner, Ricky Weidner & family, Pam Gandy & daughter, Leslie Brice and boys, Ben & Rita Blakeney of San Angelo; Beth Brice, Steve & Georgia Collier, Luke & Tanya Bedrick & baby, Eddie & Ann Bedrick, Judy Snowden and grandchildren of Odessa; Terry Sanders & Bruce Sherrod of Abilene; Horace & Odell McGinnis, Scarlett Morgan & family, Greg & Sherrie Johnson and family of Mineral Wells; Jim Bob Webb and children of Cisco; Nita and Nikki Stevens of Round Rock; Loy Morris and Darlene Gower of Ballinger; Troy Henslev of Wingate; Anita Wood, Bob & Oleta Webb of Winters.

Visitors attending were Bert & Joyce Bronaugh of Ballinger; Johnny and Ann Walker of Winters; Larry Webb of Moro Community; Dale Wood of Round Rock; Cory Mudd of Belton; Sylvia Garivay, Robert Reed, Diana Sarabia, and Michelle Walls of San Angelo.

Harmon-Sparks reunion

by Jeffie Roberts

The families of the late Joe Cephus and Clara Belle (Sparks) Harmon and the late Mathew Marion and Almeda King Sparks gathered Saturday, June 15, 2002, for their 63rd annual reunion. The reunion was held in the Recreation Center in Robert Lee. There were 98 relatives and friends of the family present. The group was welcomed by a beautiful 1.8 inch rain. The high temperature for the day was 88-90 degrees.

The late Thomas (T.R.) Harmon was the son of the late Joe Cephus and Clara Belle (Sparks) Harmon. The late Amanda Elvira (Mandy Sparks) Harmon was the daughter of the late Mathew Marion and Almeda King Sparks. The family of T.R. and Mandy Harmon present for the 63rd reunion were Floyd and Jessie Harmon, J.D. Harmon, Nola Harmon, Inez (Harmon)



These rifles were among the artifacts displayed at Fort Chadbourne June 22, 2002, during Fort Chadbourne Days.

and Kenneth Harper, Bobby and Jeffie Roberts, Douglas, Kacee, and James Roberts, Marshall, Sheri and Stewart Millican, Joe and DeeAnna Harmon and Suzann Johnson all of Robert Lee.

Alf and Dorothy Harmon, Randle Harmon, Jerrel and Lavelle Harmon, Wayne and Dorene Mashburn, Jason Harmon, Ardie and Linda Harmon, Rena and Brady Johnson, Jackie and Darlene Boyd, Kristi and Brittany Briley, and Brint, Robin and Bryson Harmon all of San Angelo.

Also, Bill and Dorothy Harmon of Waxahachie; Lawana M. Perry of Carlsbad; Troy, Susan and Cayla Millican of Sterling City; Jerry and Janie Harmon of Weatherford; James and Blanche Harmon of Benbrook; David and Sharon Rohmfeld of Rowena; Todd, Judy, Travis and Blake Holle of Ballinger; Clint, Sharon, Kelcie and Shayla Harmon and James and Stormy Senger all of Midland; Sheila Farrar and Lauren Hammerton of Houston; Crystal Hammerton of Stephenville, Mark and Lisa Fite of Ferris; Lee, Tammy and Hunter Hortenstine of Bronte; and Justin Skipworth of Hickory Flat, MS.

Other descendents of the late Joe C. and Clara Belle (Sparks) Harmon present was their granddaughter, Shirley Harmon-Lay of Midland who has attended every reunion since her birth. She is the daughter of the late George and Ruby Harmon.

Descendents of the late Mathew Marion and Almeda

King Sparks present were Marion Luther and Mary Sparks, Wanda Sparks, Carol Dennis, Bobby, Marsha and Courtney Jones, and Jeff, Cristi, Heather, Anthony, Hunter and Blairie Ballentine all of San Angelo; Ed and Peggy (Sparks) Evans of Great Bend, KS; Loyd and Shirley Sparks of Branson, MO; Robin Honse Sparks, Kevin Honse, and Shannon Honse of Robert Lee; Ray, Linda and Shelby Sparks of Sterling City; and Randy, Janell and Holly Sparks of Sonora. These are family of the late Luther and Violet Sparks.

Friends of the family present were Rusty Meurer of San Angelo; Mandy Bergeron of Houston; and Ryan Stanford of Stephenville.

The group enjoyed barbeque cooked by Douglas Roberts and other food brought by everyone, visiting, picture taking, washer pitching, swimming, golfing, dominoes, and a special treat by the Sparks and Harmon

musicians. Those playing the piano, guitars, and spoons were Peggy (Sparks) Evans, Loyd Sparks, Bobby Jones, Jeff Ballentine, Dorothy Harmon and Jason Harmon. The entire group joined in on singing good old Gospel songs as the musicians played and sang.

Since the last reunion the family was saddened by the deaths of Don Sparks age 46 of Robert Lee on April 20 and Mrs. George (Ruby) Harmon age 87 of Midland on May 29, 2002.

The youngest present was Hunter Hortenstine, age 6 weeks of Bronte. The oldest present was Hunter's great-grandfather, Floyd Harmon, age 89 years of Robert Lee.

Personal

Bobby and Jeffie Roberts were pleased to have their long time friends, Jack and Betty Friend of New Braunfels, in their home for an overnight stay. They also had their grandchildren, Kacee and James Roberts, for several days.

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Jimmy & Staci Womack



First Sanco Homecoming held

(The following was a talk given by the late Evelyn McKinley at the 1st Sanco Homecoming on May 29, 1955. It appeared in the 2002 Sanco Homecoming Newsletter.)

(Mrs. McKinley was born at Sanco January 27, 1905. She went to school at Sanco, and graduated from Central High School in San Angelo, and received a degree from Hardin Simmons University in Abilene. She taught school in Union Texas, Friendship, Silver and Blackwell.

Those who knew and loved Evelyn McKinley will long remember her. She was a pioneer ranch woman who loved the land and was a good steward of it.)

When we began talking about this homecoming it was agreed that somebody ought to say something about the people who lived here in the early days and recall some of the things they did. No doubt some of you could have remembered better, but memories seem to have no pattern; the amusing, the serious, and the inspiring all come together.

My father says that when my grandfather brought his family here 68 years ago not many of the people whom most of us can remember, were here then. Lum Lasswell's family lived up on Gobbler, and he helped dad's folks move out. Perry Breedlove was here, and he married one of the Lasswell girls. Some people thought ranch hands had to be tough, but Mr. Breedlove was able to work for the HXW Ranch for 15 years without ever swearing an oath. Joe Kirkendall was living on the Overall place and his brother Ben was also here. The Durhams had been here for a few months.

During the next few years many other families came. The Craddocks, the Ulmers, Grandpa Scarborough, Frank Scarborough, the Bilbos, the Preslars, and Grandpa Campbell, just to mention some of them. These people worked together, fished together, played pranks on each other, but Sundays bright and early, they took their families to church even if it meant long drives in wagons.

The order in which they came isn't so clear, but Mr. Tucker and Mr. Landers came early. The Sanco young people rode on horseback to Sunday Singings in the Landers home. Mr. Menielle, Mr. Goss, Mr. Cole, Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Burns, Dave and Bud Martin, Mr. Austin, Uncle Jack and Tome Adkins, Mr. Benningfield, and Uncle Cliff Creighton were definitely old timers. But no family wove itself more into this community than the family of Grandpa and Grandma Gartman who lived here so long and so well.

Mr. Daffem and Jim Robertson moved in near the Landers and Tuckers, and below Grandpa Gartman were Mr. Overall, Lee Hurley, Whitney Baze and Uncle Johnny Berryman.

Briscoe bought the old Clark place. Mr. Ballard was up at the gap and Mr. Walker and Mr. Jameson were just outside the community. In later years Mr. Jameson loved to attend the meetings at Sanco and rejoiced in the good preaching we often had. Mr. Carwile, Mr. Reid, and Mr. Devoll reared their families here as well. Mr. Arledge came

later.

Just a few of you who came earliest have stayed through the years to bless us with the influence and inspiration of your lives. For every one of you we give thanks today and pray that you may have many more useful years.

Mr. Clevenger was sort of a newcomer. He ran the store after Oll Tubb. Best of all he built his kitchen floor high enough off the ground for Sallie and Leona to build a dollhouse underneath. Here we had some of the best times of our lives. But when we grew older and heard Mr. Clevenger, his voice choked with emotion, professes to know the Lord, and Mrs. Clevenger slipped quietly around after church, smiled and said, "Go home with us." We learned to appreciate the dear souls that they were. Most of my nickels were spent with Mr. Clevenger or Mr. Campbell. On Sundays Mr. Campbell led the singing and Mrs. Campbell played the piano.

In the autumn evenings mother rocked me to sleep on the front porch as we listened to the old gin and waited for my dad to bring coal across the mountain from Blackwell for the gin in the old wagon. Mr. Meek, Mr. Benningfield and Reef Smith, Jim Smith's brother, ran the gin at different times. On clear mornings we could often hear Mr. Cole and Mr. Bilbo talking as they came around the hill on bales of cotton to the gin. Sometimes someone from up that road raced my daddy to the gin, but if our gate was open they really had to hurry. But when Mr. Cole started to town in that buggy, you really drove if you stayed in sight of him. Can you remember? Like the village Smithy, Uncle Sinc was blacksmith and he to went on Sunday to the church where he taught the girls and boys. How many here today were in his class?

Later Uncle Bob Cosby built the present store building for a shop and garage in the days where garages were necessarily close together. Grandpa Scarborough kept the first store, before my day, over where Grandpa Bird finally made his home. Later he lived in the little house across the road from Aunt Cora Creighton up here on the hill. The Durhams built their home at the point of Durham Peak. Mrs. Durham was the first postmaster.

The first schoolhouse stood near their place. That was way before the big three-room we can first remember, and before the time of Miss Yates and Miss Fenielle, Miss Nora Stevens, Miss Ruby and Miss Conrad. My parents and some of yours, educated as they were in the early one-teacher school, seemed to acquire a great deal of knowledge and most of the skills and abilities we talk about in our universities today. Perhaps we should give no credit to the poor facilities but rather to the people themselves who determined to use every opportunity at their command. In this age of high standards of living, expensive school plants and good church buildings, we should use them as wisely and well as they used theirs. Rather than try to destroy, deflate, or smear their high ideals, we should try to be worthy of them.

For my first 15 years most of my small world passed through the gate at the corner of our yard or trudged the school trail that

ran between the house and the creek. Oren and Vida Belle Fletcher, Eele and Desma, Ulmer and Thelma, Herman, Homer, and Effie knew that trail well.

Mr. Kimbell never passed our gate without my knowing he had been there. We were candy partners and the candy was always there whether anybody had been home or not.

Mrs. Anderson in her buggy on the way to town came by that way. Sunday mornings Grandma and Grandpa Bird came early for church and stopped their hack in front of our yard and fretted that we weren't ready. The most cherished memories, perhaps, are of the late summer evenings when Mama's roses and honeysuckles were in bloom and from all around we could hear the horse drawn vehicles gathering in the old brush arbor where the revivals were held. Some who passed our place were Uncle Smith and Aunt Julia in their white-topped hack. Walter, Phronia, Boyd and Mattie, and Horace and Etta with their families. Uncle Frank and Aunt Neppie and Allie and sometimes Myrtle and Pearl Ross.

The arbor stood between where the churches now stand and the kerosene torch lanterns were the source of light. In the twilight this quiet little village echoed as we sang, "How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord!" "What Can Wash Away My Sins?" "Amazing Grace," and "Just As I Am Without One Plea But That Thy Blood Was Shed for Me". The glory of the Lord shone on the faces of those who walked closest with Him and Aunt Neppie's shouting was so filled with the Joy of the Lord that the joy was contagious.

The memories of those blessed times still strengthen and encourage our hearts as we recall the good, and the noble, and the true in the lives of those devoted Christians and others, like Mr. Carwile, more recently passed on. Not all of them were soldiers of battle, but rather soldiers of the Cross - who fought the good fight of faith. So this Memorial Day as across the nation we commemorate our soldiers and sailors dead and resolve to live for God and Country with the same devotion that they died for it, let's also honor and revere the memory of these Christian warriors.

With this thought the Cemetery Association has been improving the cemetery and have invited us here. It is on

occasions like this that faces of these loved ones seem to visit us once more. So it is with mixed emotions that we welcome you, their sons and daughters, back to your old home today; joy at having you here; sadness that a reunion can never be complete until all the redeemed are gathered home. Those who rest on the hillside are more in number than we who reside in these valleys. But somehow when the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and the dead in Christ shall rise, I believe that the old hillside will be the closest to Heaven of them all. "Lord, I want to be in that number, when the Saints go Marching in" - Don't You?

Personal

Visitors in the home of Bobby and Jeffie Roberts of Robert Lee were their daughter, Sheila Roberts Farrar and granddaughter, Lauren Hammerton of Houston. They were here to help with the preparations for the Harmon-Sparks reunion. Lauren spent several days with her sister, Crystal Hammerton, who is a college student at Tarleton State University in Stephenville. The Robertses drove to Stephenville to visit with the girls and Lauren came home with them to visit a few days before the reunion.

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