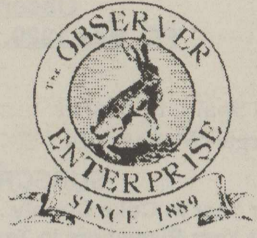


# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

Single Copy 35¢



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

Vol. 115, No. 47

Friday, June 20, 2003

## Friday the 13th is good luck for lakes

by Publisher Hal Spain

A slow moving thunderstorm this past Friday the 13th flooded already saturated portions of the county, and the runoff benefited area lakes. Hardest hit were areas of the county which had already received the lion's share of the abundant moisture since June 1.

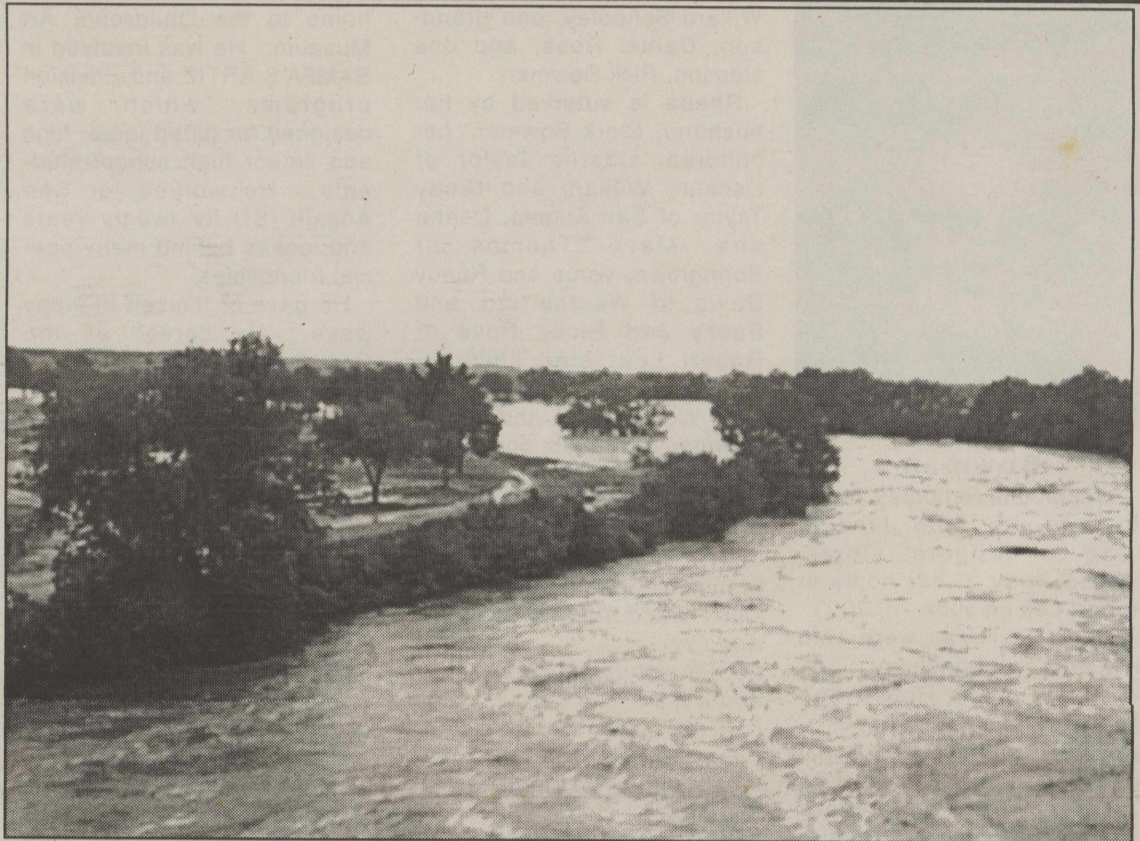
Oak Creek Lake got a flood of up to six inches of rainfall Friday afternoon on its watershed area. Area residents were out in mass to see Oak Creek out of its banks, bringing the overflow to the lake, along with other debris, including big trees and anything else that got in its way. To date, the lake has captured a total of 10.79 feet, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. According to Mrs. McWhorter, who operates Live Oak Lodge, she has already received phone calls from area fishermen anxious to get back on the lake.

The area just east of Robert Lee was also hard hit by the storm. The overflow from Mountain Creek Lake, which was already nearly full from previous rains, cascaded through the golf course at a rate of over 12,000 cubic feet/second, according to the accompanying graph. It is

interesting, and at least a little bit humorous, to note that on the government website, the graph shows that the maximum amount of discharge for this stream is 2080 cubic feet/second.

Generally speaking, most of the county received from two to six inches of rainfall from Friday's deluge. With the soil already saturated from previous rains, most of this runoff made it into area reservoirs. Spence, according to CRMWD Assistant General Manager Chris Wingert, has gained 11.12 vertical feet of water, or 30,115 acre feet, with a total at this point of 53,926 acre feet of water in the lake. Oak Creek Lake, as discussed previously, has received 10.79 vertical feet of runoff into the lake. The U.S. Geological Survey map does not include any information concerning how many acre feet of water the lake now contains. Lake Ivie has experienced a 3.95 foot vertical rise, gaining 38,177 acre feet, and now boasts a total of 226,258 acre feet.

Rainfall totals for the month are hard to come by. Most of the county has received a minimum of 8 inches, with the areas hard hit by the flooding receiving up to 19 or 20 inches.



Last Friday evening, Mountain Creek left its banks and partially flooded the golf course in Robert Lee. This photo was taken by Bud Thompson from the bridge on Highway 158.

### Rabies clinic to be held at BHS

Bronte FFA will conduct a rabies clinic in the foyer of the Bronte High School, on Tuesday, June 24. The clinic will be held from 4:30 until 6:00 pm in the afternoon. Dr. Jimmy Smith from Winters will be there to administer rabies and other vaccinations for your dogs and cats.

For information you may call

Pioneer Vet. Clinic at 754-5487.

### RL Cemetery workday set for June 21

Hayrick Masonic Lodge members will have a workday at the Robert Lee Cemetery Saturday, June 21, 2003, beginning at 7:30 am. All interested persons are invited to attend and help.

Many graves have sunken due to the much needed and appreciated rains. Graves that are covered with gravel and rock etc. will not be worked unless family members are there to remove the gravel etc.

### FBC of Bronte to hold VBS

First Baptist Church of Bronte will hold Vacation Bible School for children ages 4 through those who have completed 6th grade. It runs Sunday, June 22, through Thursday, 26, from 6:30 to 9:00 each evening. Please arrive a little early on Sunday evening for registration.

The theme of our VBS is The Great Kingdom Caper. It is an exciting and intriguing escapade to crack the Character Code. Kids and their teachers will be on special assignment to discover how to live with Christian Character. Bible stories, music, crafts, recreation, and snacks are all combined to provide kids with a fun filled week designed especially for them.

The Great Kingdom Caper will conclude Thursday night with family fun night! On this night, children will come at the usual time of 6:30 pm, then parents and other guests are invited to join us at 7:30. You will enjoy seeing some of what your children have learned followed by a time of refreshments and fun games for all ages.

This week of fun is free of charge and open to everyone. Call First Baptist Church, Bronte at 473-2331 or Judy at 473-5661 for more information.

### Harmon/Sparks reunion to be held June 28

The 64th annual Harmon-Sparks reunion will be held all day Saturday, June 28, 2003, at the recreation hall in the Coke County Park in Robert Lee. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

### Adult water aerobics offered in RL

An adult water aerobics class is being held at the Coke County Swimming Pool in Robert Lee from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

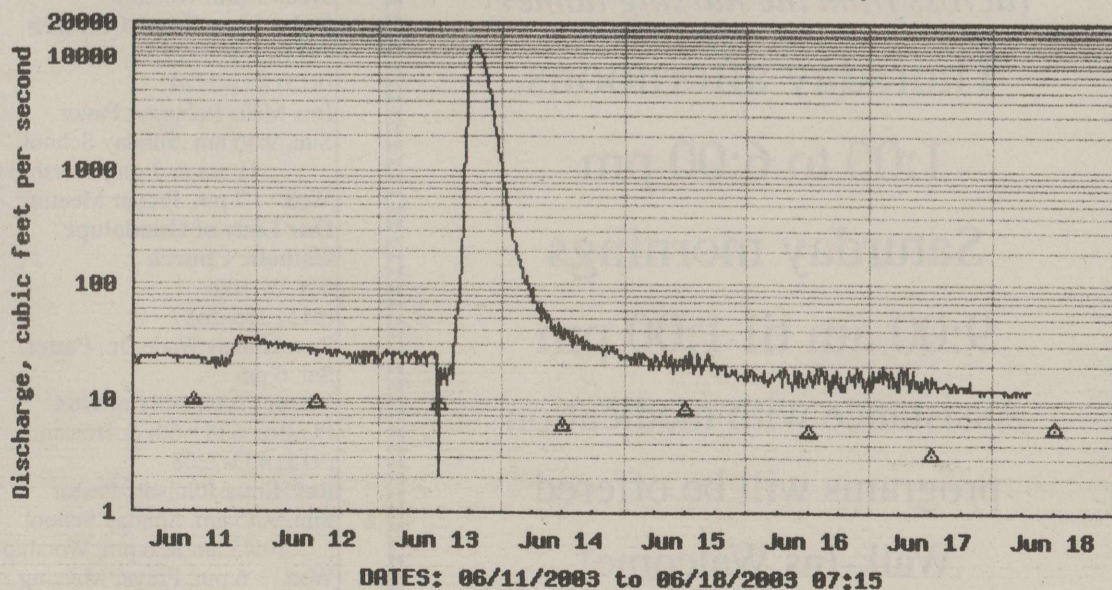
Each participant needs to bring a noodle for deep water aerobics.

For further information, call Jo Nell Blair who serves as the volunteer leader of the sessions.

Classes are not held during inclement weather.

USGS

USGS 08124000 Colorado Rv at Robert Lee, TX



DATES: 06/11/2003 to 06/18/2003 07:15

#### EXPLANATION

— DISCHARGE

△ MEDIAN DAILY STREAMFLOW BASED ON 54 YEARS OF RECORD



**THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE**

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

---- **Obituaries** ----



**Bowman**

Rheba June Schooley Taylor Bowman, 67, born June 8, 1936 in Kilgore, Texas, passed away at her home in Robert Lee on June 16, 2003.

Funeral services were held at 6:00 pm Wednesday, June 18, 2003, at the Robert Lee Baptist Church with Bro. Garry Bivins officiating. Burial followed in the Robert Lee Cemetery. Services were under the direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

Rheba was raised in Robert Lee, Texas. Married to Dean Taylor, she then lived much of her life in Springtown, Texas and raised five children. She worked as an upholstery seamstress and secretary for Vought Aircraft in Fort Worth. Rheba loved sewing and handcrafting many patterns, square dancing, music, and spending time with her family. She especially loved her grandchildren.

Rheba married Elgin Clark Bowman and lived in Benbrook for several years before they relocated to Robert Lee. She was a member of the Robert Lee Baptist Church.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Pearl Schooley, two brothers,

Cecil Schooley and James Willard Schooley, one grandson, Daniel Ross, and one stepson, Rick Bowman.

Rheba is survived by her husband, Clark Bowman; her children, Charlie Taylor of Decatur, William and Cindy Taylor of San Angelo, Deana and Mark Thomas of Springtown, Vonie and Randy Davis of Weatherford, and Becky and Ricky Ross of Robert Lee; step children, Ginger and Fred Shattuck of Fort Worth, Nick and Diane Bowman of Iredale; one sister, Irma Casey Blair of Robert Lee; one aunt, Oza Smith of Walnut Springs; 17 grandchildren; and 10 great grandchildren.

*Don't Stand At My Grave  
And Cry*

*Do not stand at my grave  
and weep*

*I am not there*

*I do not sleep*

*I am a thousand winds  
that blow*

*I am the diamond glints  
on snow*

*I am the sunlight on  
ripened grain*

*I am the gentle Autumn rain*

*When you awaken in  
the morning's hush*

*I am the swift uplifting  
rush of quiet birds*

*In circled flight*

*I am the soft stars  
that shine at night*

*Do not stand at my grave  
and cry*

*I am not there*

*I did not die*

Author Unknown  
47-1tc

**Zuniga**

Our brother, uncle and friend, Willie Zuniga, went to be with his Lord on Sunday, June 15, 2003. His best friend and love Cindy Clanton joins him in his journey.

Willie was born on May 14, 1952 in Borger, Texas. He graduated from Bronte High School in 1970 and went on to complete his Bachelors and Masters Degree in Education at Angelo State University. He then committed his life to educating children. Beginning his career as a coach, Willie soon focused his energy on teaching the children of San Angelo art. He believed "that art can really save a lot of kids who would drop out of school otherwise," and that each student had some form of creative ability.

Willie was intrigued with the role the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts plays in public art education and its affiliation with the San Angelo ISD. In 1994, he volunteered his time and talents to the remodeling efforts of the space at the Cactus Hotel, which became home to the Children's Art Museum. He was involved in SAMFA'S ARTIZ and Envision programs, which were designed for gifted junior high and senior high school students. He worked for San Angelo ISD for twenty years and leaves behind many special friendships.

He gave of himself in many ways. He served on the Boards of Concho Resource Center, which helps the handicapped, and the San Angelo Cultural Affairs Council. He was a sports enthusiast and an avid Harley Davidson biker. Willie built his first motorcycle himself in his apartment while in college. He spent his summers touring the United States on his bike and made many lasting friendships.

Services for Willie Zuniga and Cindy Clanton were held on Thursday, June 19, 2003 at 10:00 am at Sacred Heart Cathedral. A rosary was held on Wednesday, June 18, 2003 at 7:00 pm at Johnson's Funeral Home. His father and mother, William and Marcella Zuniga, preceded Willie in death. Pallbearers were Randy Barbee, Hector Cantu, Sebastian Guerrero, Monte Floyd, Corky Smith and Ed Wagner.

Survivors include three brothers, Leroy Zuniga and wife, Amy of Grape Creek, Bobby and wife, Tina of Sonora, Alfred Garza and wife, Janie of Lubbock. His sister, Mary Jane Foelker and husband, George A. Foelker of San Angelo also survive him. Willie leaves behind six nephews, Justin Zuniga of Sonora, Colten and Cody Zuniga of Grape Creek, Leroy Zuniga Jr. of Princeton, Alfred Garza Jr. and Michael Martinez of San Angelo; four nieces, Stephanie Martinez of San Angelo, Maci Zuniga of Sonora, Ashlee Wilson of Paradise and Brenda Garza; and by two great nieces, Erin Martinez of San Angelo and Cheyenne Zuniga of Princeton. Willie also leaves behind many aunts and uncles who loved him very much and a wonderful group of friends from the Lone Wolf Pub and his "biker buddies".

Goodbye brother, uncle and friend, we will miss you very much.

47-1tc

**Hamilton**

Melvin Hamilton, 82, of Roswell, passed away at his home on Tuesday, June 3, 2003. Melvin was cremated as were his wishes and his remains were buried at the family ranch in Robert Lee. The family received friends at Anderson-Bethany Funeral Home from 5:30-7:30 pm.

Melvin was born on Jan. 12, 1921, in Wilmeth, Texas, to John Franklin Hamilton and Bertha Wilson Hamilton. He served his country with the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. Melvin Hamilton and Sandy Jones were married on Aug. 11, 1989, in Santa Fe. He was a painter and a rancher. Melvin enjoyed ranching, horse racing, and woodworking.

Melvin is survived by his wife, Sandy, of the home; a daughter, Suzette Villian of Roswell; two sons, Michael Hamilton of Roswell and Floyd Gonzales and wife, Dee, of Las Cruces; grandsons, Jimmy Zamora Jr. of Roswell,

Tim Hinshaw, his wife, and his daughter, of Ark., Christopher Mullen of Deming; granddaughter, Irene Gonzales of Las Cruces, Jackie Jennings and her three children of Midland; brother, Claude B. Hamilton, and his wife, Leona, of Roswell; sister, Doris Shandley of Robert Lee; sister-in-law, Jan Mullen, and her husband Lee, of Deming; nieces and nephews, Kim Carter, her husband, Gilbert, and their four children, of Midland, Amanda and Derek Gray, and Kevin and Sarah Carter; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

Melvin was preceded in death by his wife Billie; his only child Marilyn; two brothers, Don Hamilton and John Hamilton; four sisters, Jessie Hurley, Lois Adams, Faye Eubanks, and Louise Gaddy.

Services were under the direction of Anderson-Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory.

47-1tp

**Sparks named to  
Dean's list**

Bobbie Sparks of Robert Lee was named to the Dean's Honor List at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. She is the daughter of Barbara and Bucky Sparks of Robert Lee and the granddaughter of Cova Sparks.

*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 & 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. Miller Robinson, 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 • 6th & Houston  
(915) 453-2208

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

Wed. 6 pm, Prayer Meeting

**Tennyson Baptist Church**  
Hwy 277 • Tennyson, Texas  
(915) 482-0663

Rev. Rickey D. Green, Pastor  
Sun. 10:00 am, Sunday School  
11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship

**Gus Gross, M.D.**

*Board Certified in Family Medicine*

would like to announce the opening of the

**Clinic in Robert Lee**

*(across from the nursing home)*

**Thursday afternoons**

**1:00 to 6:00 pm**

**Saturday mornings**

**9:00 am til 1:00 pm**

Assistance with medication

programs will be offered

**Walk-Ins Welcome!**

*For appointments:*

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Oak Creek Lake is looking much better following the recent rainfall that raised the level almost 11 feet.

**Bronte City Council seeks help from residents**

Residents are asked to keep their properties mowed to help with mosquito control. Although the recent rains have been a benefit to the water supply, it has also caused grasses and other vegetation to become overgrown.

Residents should also make sure there is no standing water on their property. Standing water is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Items that might fill with rain water should be turned upside down. Rain water caught for watering plants should be kept covered or treated to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

**4-H Clothing Project**

The 4-H Clothing Project will be held June 23-25, 2003 at the Robert Lee High School Home Economics room beginning at 1:00 pm Monday. If you are interested in participating in the clothing project, construction or buying, please contact the Extension office for more details. (325) 453-2461.

**LCP II sign-up ends July 3**

LCP II sign up began on April 1, 2003 and will end on July 3, 2003. The application period is for the 2002 crop year. Most of our producers signed up previously, under LCP I and are not eligible for this sign up. This is the same program as before, Washington just extended the sign up window, as more counties across the nation became eligible.

To be eligible for LCP II a producer's livestock operation headquarters must be physically located in a county qualifying. Eligible livestock in Coke and Sterling counties are cattle, sheep and goats. The eligibility period for livestock starts on June 1, 2002.

For more information call us at (325) 453-2751 or come by the office.

**BISD board meets in regular session**

The Bronte ISD Board of Trustees met in regular session on Thursday, June 12, 2003 at 7:00 pm in the board room. All members were present. Also present at the meeting was Michael Bohensky, Principal, CCJJC.

The meeting was opened with prayer by David Scott.

Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Michael Bohensky, Principal, CCJJC, reported to the board an enrollment of 203 students.

Discussion and approval was given by the board to the following items: Adoption of a NO NIT Policy, Engagement Letter with Burl Lowery, CPA, for 2002-2003 Audit, Interlocal Agreement for Fairview Accelerated School for 2003-2004, payment of May 2003 bills.

Proposals/bids were accepted on the roofing, flooring for kitchen and auditorium, metal carport and bus barn extensions and the sale of a kitchen range and pizza oven. No proposals were received on the sale and removal of the house at 321 West Oliver.

Personnel items included the hiring of Kari Ashcraft and Kevin Meeks for teaching positions at CCJJC. Brittany Lloyd is moving to an elementary teaching position.

The Superintendent's report included a financial and legislative update. Summer projects were also discussed.

Correspondence included board training opportunities at the ESC in August.

A Budget Workshop is tentatively set for 7:00 pm on July 16th. The next regular

meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2003 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm by the President.

**Tom Green Community Action Council lists vacancies**

The Tom Green County Community Action Council (CAC) currently has several vacancies in its Board of Directors. They are in the process of recruiting qualified individuals for these vacancies.

The CAC serves 13 counties in the Concho Valley Area. There are two Neighborhood Centers providing services to low-income individuals; one in San Angelo and one in Eden. Services provided by CAC include weatherization, food bank, and utility assistance.

The duties of a member serving on the Board of Directors include oversight and approval of the programs and budgets, signing of checks, and representing their sector. Meetings are held every 10 weeks, are usually at noon, and last approximately one hour.

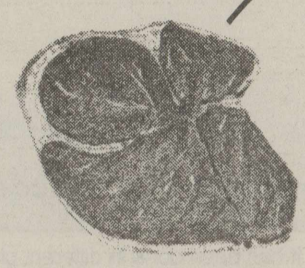
If you are interested in serving, please contact the office at (325) 653-2411 or P.O. Box 671, San Angelo, Texas 76902.

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501 Commerce - Robert Lee, TX  
Store Hrs: Mon.-Sat. 8-8 Sun. 8-6  
SPECIALS GOOD 6/18 Thru 6/24

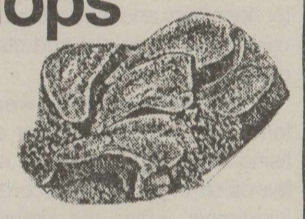


USDA Select Boneless  
**Round Steak**  
Lb. **\$1.69**

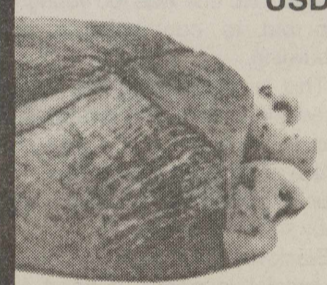
Assorted

**Pork Loin Chops**

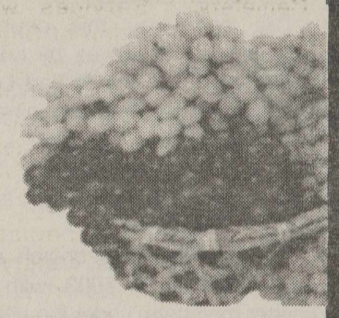
Lb. **\$1.29**



USDA Select Beef • Boneless  
**Rump Roast**  
Lb. **\$1.69**

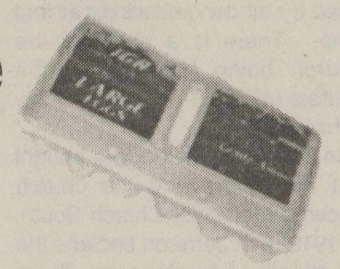


Red or White  
**Seedless Grapes**  
Lb. **.99**



6 Roll Package  
**Brawny Paper Towels**  
6 Roll Package **\$3.99**

18 Count Carton  
**IGA Large Eggs**  
18 Ct. Ctn. **.99**

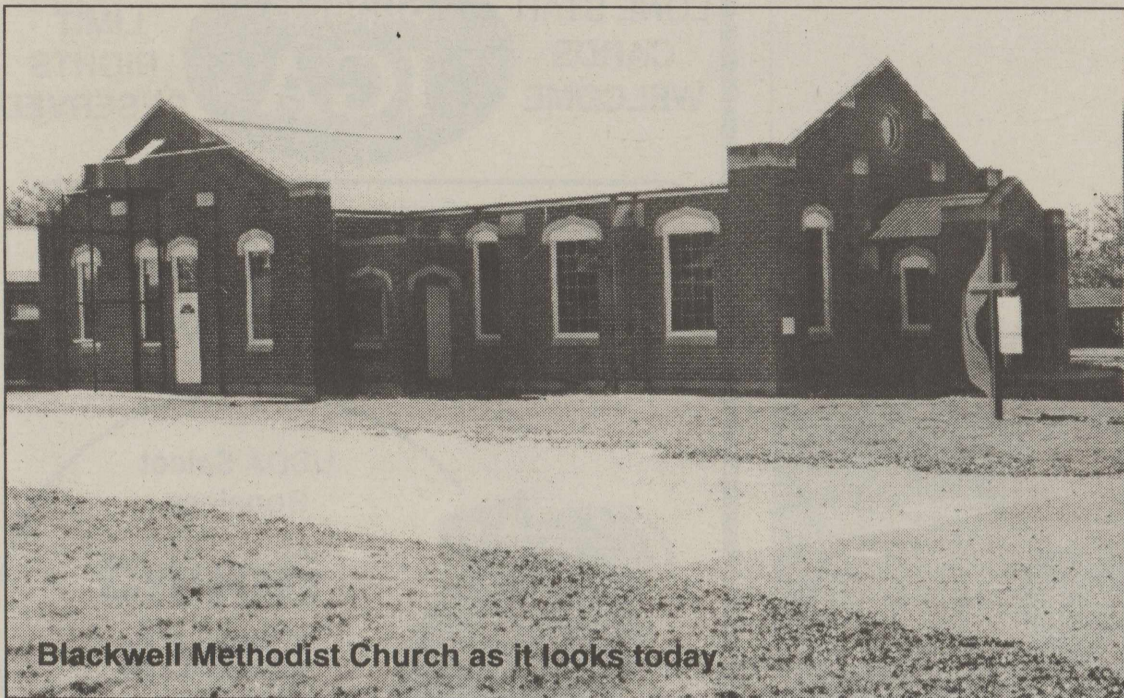


12 Double Roll Or 24 Regular Roll  
**Soft'n Gentle Bathroom Tissue**  
2 12 Dbl. Roll or 24 Reg. Roll **/\$10**

*You are invited to a Retirement Reception honoring Pansy Bloodworth Monday, June 30, 2003 1 pm to 3 pm*

**Robert Lee State Bank**  
Member FDIC  
621 Austin Street Robert Lee, Texas Phone 453-2545 Tele-Bank 453-2585





Blackwell Methodist Church as it looks today.

**Century Mark for Blackwell UMC**

In pioneer times the country between Robert Lee and Sweetwater was sparsely settled. Circuit preachers rode horseback from house to house to bring the gospel to the people. This area is known for hospitality and they were usually very welcome to eat and stay the night.

In those days there were no forms of communication or advertising such as telephones, radios, television or e-mails. According to 'old-timers', when the circuit rider arrived and needed to summon the pioneers to a gospel meeting, he built a fire on one of the taller mountains called 'Church Peak' for everyone to see and come enjoy singing and the gospel service at the foot of the mountain.

This was near the old 'Butterfield Trail' (which is now Highway 277) a few miles from what is presently historical 'Fort Chadbourne'.

The only way this country received any mail was by horse and buggy over the Robert Lee-Sweetwater line. The first mail stop was at the house of Judge J. Q. Hanna and his wife, Mary. The mail stop was named 'Olga', after their granddaughter.

The Olga Methodist church was organized May 3, 1903, with 16 charter members, under the united leadership of several Reverends who had been coming to bring the gospel to this small group.

In 1907, the town of Blackwell was established. These were days of bad roads, no automobiles or airplanes. In 1907, the railroad arrived bringing a welcome link to the world and new opportunities for the rural population.

The new building site for the church was purchased in 1909 and a small white frame building was constructed in 1911. This was used by all denominations at that time. There is a photo of the church being built as Martha Carlisle viewed it from the window of her home.

In 1914, the Methodists bought out the others and the church became Methodist Church South. In 1919, A.D. Jamison became the church's first full time pastor. There have now been 58 pastors.

Blackwell's population grew. Many people received Jesus as their Savior as a result of different types of events: services at brush arbors, outdoor prayer meetings and revivals at the tabernacle (used by all denominations), bible studies, camp meetings, youth rallies, Vacation Bible School, and Sunday School, and good old Christian witness.

The church has had the great joy of baptizing new Christians into the family of God in three ways: immersion, sprinkling or pouring water on.

It has been done in different places such as: dirt ponds, creeks, rivers, lakes and sprinkling with water from the Jordan River.

On Easter Sunday 1945, just before completion of a 24x44 rock annex, the church was completely destroyed by fire. Almost before the fire was over, men began to make contributions for a new church. It was rebuilt in 1946 with a lot of prayer and trust in the Lord and many hours of hard work donated.

Soldiers, home from World War II, along with the entire community, helped. No one was too young or too old to contribute to the rebuilding.

This is the building that is still used today and a fellowship hall has been added to the property, which is used for fellowship, community group meetings, bridal and baby showers, diners, etc.

Blackwell Methodist Church has a special love and support for Camp Butman, which was given by the Shep Methodist Church in 1985, when they became members of the congregation. Many young people have had lasting Christian experiences there and the chapel services have been a special blessing to everyone.

The official emblem for the United Methodist Church is the cross and flame symbolizing the Holy Spirit. These are ancient symbols of the church dating back to the days of Christ and Pentecost. Each evokes images of sacrifice, witness and service. They remind us of both the opportunities and obligations of discipleship. Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can. John Wesley

The church family is quick to help in times of need and supports missions and orphanages such as Methodist Children's Home in Waco which has been providing care for God's children since 1890. The church members reach out in emergencies providing meals, clothing and transportation, caring and making positive contributions in the community.

The church recently received a

note with the statement, "It fills us full of joy to be a part of such a caring church family." The church body and Pastor Charles Casey feel that they are blessed with love and the grace of God and hope the same for all.

The celebration will be held in Blackwell Methodist Church. Schedule of events:

Friday, June 27th at 6:00 pm, former Pastor Bill Perkins speaking, refreshments afterward.

Saturday, June 28th at 6:00 pm, former Pastor Charles Dunnam speaking, refreshments afterward.

Sunday, June 29th at 11:00 am, Lewis Holland speaking, District Superintendent. 12:00 brisket lunch and fellowship provided by the church. 2:00 pm Pastor Charles Casey, closing.

There will be special music, fellowship, food, memorabilia, pictures, old records and church histories for viewing Fun for all!! Please come celebrate with us and remember to preserve the memories and bring your cameras!

**Savings account set up**

There is a savings account set up for Janie Gloria at the Robert Lee State Bank under - Ruth Minjarez Special.

Mrs. Gloria is undergoing treatment for her liver. She is in need of a transplant.

**This Ole' House set for June 21 in San Angelo**

City Lumber and Christmas in April present This Ole' House Musical Extravaganza & Auction June 21, 2003, 5-9 at the Paseo East Pavilion in San Angelo.

Wonderful entertainment including "The Tonesmen Chorus", super good BBQ sandwich supper. There will also be a silent & live auction. Admission is free, but there will be a donation.

**ECC ambulance runs for May 2003**

- 05/02 - 18:55 - Medical transport
- 05-05 - 01:30 - Medical transport
- 05-05 - 17:20 - No transport
- 05-07 - 19:50 - No transport
- 05-08 - 09:55 - Trauma transport
- 05-18 - 14:20 - No transport
- 05-18 - 14:24 - Trauma transport
- 05-23 - 09:40 - No transport
- 05-29 - 12:50 - Trauma transport

**Memorials**



Martha Carlisle looks on from her home as the First Methodist Church is being built in 1908.



Allein Glass' Sunday School Class poses for this group photo in the church's early years.

**R.W. Blackmon**  
Kenneth & Nita Hester  
Robert & Lillian Porter  
**Lorenzo DeLa Garza**  
Cotton & Joyce Morgan

**Ross Roundup held June 7**

The annual Ross Roundup was held in Bangs, at First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall on June 7, 2003.

Descendants of Roy and May Ross met for a day of visiting, picture taking and enjoying a covered dish noon meal prepared by the families attending. After lunch an auction of family made craft items was held, presided over by Cecil Ross, auctioneer.

During a business meeting it was decided to have the reunion in Robert Lee next year.

Those in attendance were: Wallace and Billie Ross, Leslie and Diane McClatchey, Cressie and Patton from Bangs; Preston and Norma Ross, Chris and Gina Ross, Seth and Emily from Brownwood; Tobin and Millicent Ross, Spencer and William from Sweetwater; Allen and Kelly Smith from Ft. Worth; Bea Ross from Waco; Ross and Kay Adkins, Jo Louise Holub, Claire McManus and Hope, Cecil and Holly Ross, Carson and Sam, Rodney Rhodes, Wendy, Samantha and Josh from San Angelo; Royce and Alice Wallace, Elmer and Barbara Adkins, Marie Ross, Dennis and Roxie Ross from

Robert Lee; Imogene Vines and Sheila Vines from Midland. A good time was had by all.

**Sheep/Lamb payments suspended**

Washington has just informed all FSA County Offices that as of June 6, 2003 all payments under the LMAAP-Year 4 will be suspended. County Offices will not be able to process payments. The program is running short of money and all payments after June 6, 2003 will be probated. It will be sometime after September 12, 2003 before we will be able to process any further payments.

We will continue to accept applications as usual. LMAAP applications for Year 4 must be received in the County Office by close-of-business August 15, 2003. There are NO exceptions to this.

Once we are notified what the National factor rates for each type payment are, we will let producers know.

For more information, visit the County FSA Office or call us at (325) 453-2751.

**Questions, Anyone?**

Learn more about federal government programs, benefits, and services. Just call toll-free **1-800-FED-INFO** or visit [www.pueblo.gsa.gov/call](http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/call). U.S. General Services Administration

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## COUNTRY AGENTS NEWS

By Tommy Antilley  
Cooperative Extension Agent

### Mosquito control devices

When it comes to mosquito control devices, about the only thing that works is common sense, says an entomologist with Texas A&M University.

Meanwhile, many Texas citizens are using devices or controls costing hundreds or even thousands of dollars that may offer only marginal control or may actually draw more mosquitoes onto their property, said Dr. Jim Olson, professor of entomology with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in College Station.

Olson's warning comes at a time when mosquito populations are on the rise due to warm, wet weather. It's also a time when Texans need to heed the threat of mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Fueled by fears of mosquito-borne diseases, the market is ripe for a host of dubious mosquito control devices.

First, there are the sonic repellants. Whether wristband or tabletop model, these devices emit a high frequency sound, inaudible to humans, that mimics the sound that male mosquitoes make. Only female mosquitoes that have already mated with males bite humans and animals. By nature of their mated status, female mosquitoes tend to ignore male mosquitoes during this period.

Good theory, Olson said, but unfortunately these devices just don't work. The female's lust for blood is more on her mind than avoiding males. Also female mosquitoes are only repelled by the sound of the male mosquito when they are already gorged with a blood meal. Consequently, the sonic repellent devices tend to only chase away females that aren't prone to bite anyway.

The best thing about sonic repellants is they are generally inexpensive; so buyers aren't throwing that much money away, Olson noted.

Another type of sonic device supposedly attracts insects by imitating the sound of a human heartbeat. Unfortunately for the buyer and perhaps fortunately for the mosquito, the pest is not attracted by the sound of heartbeats but by the carbon dioxide and heat large mammals such as humans emit.

Some sonic devices also add heat to the attractant properties and draw mosquitoes into traps. If left on, they may actually trap hundreds of mosquitoes and that's fine, but the problem is that in wet areas, the mosquito headcount may be as much as several million individuals per acre.

Another type of mosquito trap goes a step further. It uses propane to produce carbon dioxide and heat to draw the mosquitoes close enough to be sucked into a fan-driven trap. Though these propane-fueled devices may trap thousands of mosquitoes in a few days, there are again generally hundreds of thousands or even millions of mosquitoes an acre to deal with, thereby overwhelming the trap and its ability to effectively limit bites. A warning flag on these devices is that they come with the caveat that they must be left on 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and then the owner will only realize a lowering of mosquito numbers in four to six weeks.

"With most mosquito species, weather conditions and the insect's breeding patterns will result in a decline in four to six weeks without any intervention," Olson said.

As with the bug zappers, the propane-fueled devices may actually

draw more mosquitoes from long distances onto your property than can be controlled to prevent bites.

What's particularly disturbing to Olson are the pesticide misting devices now on the market. There are several models, but they generally work by emitting small puffs of the insecticides at timed intervals around a house's perimeter. The devices are expensive, costing as much as \$5,000, and their effectiveness is suspect. Worse is the amount of pesticide they release into the environment over time and the possibility of inhalation by residents and the drift of the pesticide to other properties.

"It's about the most indiscriminate, irresponsible use of a chemical control that I've ever seen," Olson said.

The best ways to avoid mosquito bites are the tried and true methods. As mosquitoes are most active at night, limit evening activities when possible. When you do go outside, cover up and use proven repellants.

The DEET-containing repellants are still the most effective," Olson said, "but other products and the organic repellants will work for a while."

Citronella candles repel mosquitoes but are most effective in enclosed patios and other confined spaces. The candles won't work if conditions are windy.

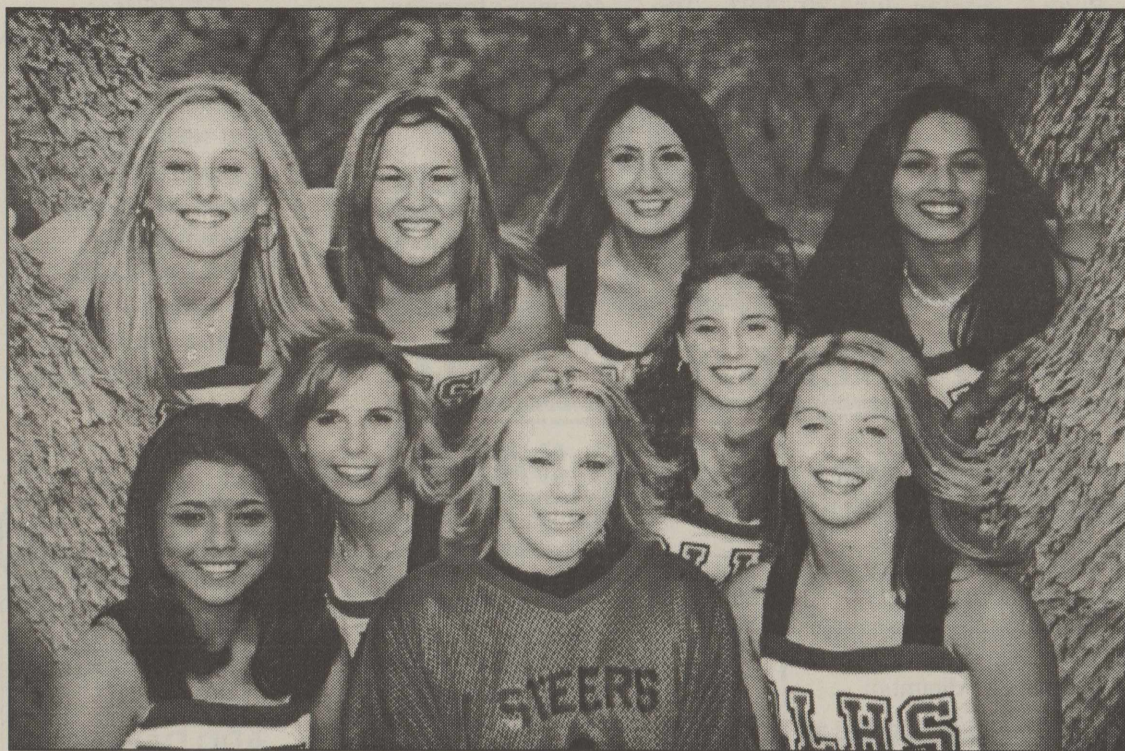
"Dispose of prime breeding locations by getting rid of anything that will hold water," Olson said.

For areas that have standing water and can't be drained, mosquito dunks are a good buy. The dunks, shaped like small donuts, use a bacterially derived pesticide called *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti). Bti disrupts the life cycle of insects that lay their eggs in standing or running water. It is nontoxic to humans, amphibians, fish, crustaceans, adult insects, flatworms and mollusks. Neither is it toxic to insect predators of the black fly, such as dragonflies. The dunks are inexpensive, can be simply dropped into the breeding pools and generally last for months.

### Lester to announce candidacy

Dr. Bill Lester, Resident Brand Chair of Free Enterprise and Public Policy at Howard Payne University, will announce his candidacy for the United States Congress in Texas' 17th District Thursday, June 25, at 12:00 p.m. at the Coke County Court House.

"This district is ready for a change," said Lester, who seeks the Republican nomination. "I have had



Robert Lee High School Cheerleaders for 2003-2004 include (back row, from left) Cara Eaton, Lindsey Roe, Michele Sanchez, Brittany Soliz (front row, from left) Monica Rodriguez, Kyla Millican, Casey Nesbit (mascot-Stomper), Jaden Alexander and Kelsy Duncan.

a desire to run for years and the timing finally seems to be right," he added. Lester is joining the race in what is considered the third most competitive district in the nation. With redistricting still a possibility, and Brown County potentially changing districts, Lester's campaign is particularly noteworthy.

Lester intends to follow the lead that President Bush has set for the nation and make it work for this district. His campaign focuses on several issues with defense, the Faith-Based Initiative, and education being among them.

"A strong defense is absolutely essential to the well-being of American citizens," said Lester. "This means we must be prepared on two fronts: continuing in President Bush's policy of preemption and increasing homeland security. We must not forget that we are at war," he added.

As a conservative, Lester believes that President Bush's Faith-Based Initiative is one of the best ideas for providing services to be implemented. This plan allows religious and community organizations to provide services with federal funding while not requiring the organization to lose its religious identity.

"Compassionate conservatism works. It works more efficiently and with less government," Lester said.

Lester holds a lifetime certificate as a Texas public school teacher and has dedicated himself to inspiring young people to reach their goals and to succeed. With education an influence in his life, Lester believes that Federal government must never overturn the need for more local control of schools.

"Parents and teachers should be recognized as the prime authority

when it comes to making decisions about a child's education," Lester said.

Lester participated in the graduate programs of Angelo State University and Florida State University before he received his masters in public administration and his Ph.D. in political science from Texas Tech University. He completed his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Texas, Edinburg.

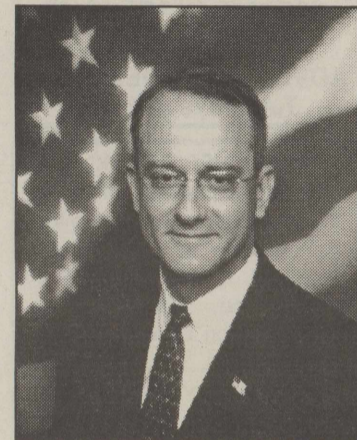
Since 1999, Lester has been serving as a professor of political science in the Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom at Howard Payne University. In keeping with his commitment to young people, Lester has continuously served as a youth minister with several Baptist churches throughout Texas for the past twenty years.

Lester is married to Sharon, his wife of 13 years, and has four children: Bethany 11, Will 8, Daniel 5, and Hannah 6 months.

### Coke County Library news

The Coke County Library Summer Reading Program prize, a copy of Pontiac Muscle Cars, was won by Randy Barnett. Next week's prize will be an M&M dispenser with dancing M&M figures on it.

A book titled Career Ideas for Kids Who Like Talking is on the shelves at the library. The book first gives some questions that will indicate a person's strongest interests. Some of the questions are: "Something I can do for hours without getting bored is \_\_\_\_\_." "My favorite thing to do after school is



Bill Lester

\_\_\_\_\_." "My favorite adult person is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_." Then the book gives choices of activities among which are: Try out for the school play. Dissect a frog. Talk on the phone to just about anyone who will talk back. Read everything in sight including the back of the cereal box. Help at a sports tournament. There are a total of 84 choices. After gaining some insight, readers are given lots of information on careers involving the talent of talking. Some of the careers are Air Traffic Controller, Flight Attendant, Innkeeper, Law Enforcement, Minister, News Reporter, Social Worker, Speech Pathologist, Sports Professional and Telemarketer. A WEB site is given for searching career opportunities at [www.pbs.org/jobs/teenindex](http://www.pbs.org/jobs/teenindex).

Library hours are Tuesdays, 8-12; Wednesdays, 8-4; Thursdays, 1-5; Friday, 8-12.

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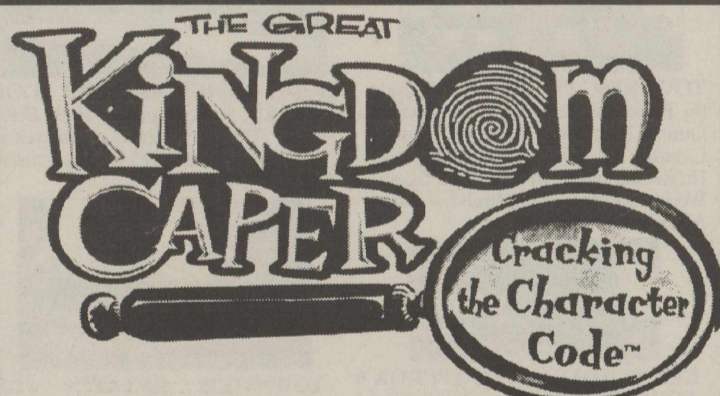
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# FINANCIAL FOCUS

With Jim Woodruff  
of Edward Jones

## Edward Jones hails passage of federal tax cuts

Financial-services firm Edward Jones recently hailed passage of the \$350 billion federal tax cut package saying it will have a "profound impact" on individual investors ability and willingness to invest while providing a strong economic stimulus.

"This is a good public policy because the current tax policy rewards borrowing and punishes saving and investing," said John W. Bachmann, managing partner of Edward Jones. "Individuals should not be penalized for owning the types of securities that can help them secure their financial independence."

The bill, expected to be signed into law next week, lowers the top tax rate on dividends and capital gains to 15 percent through 2008 and accelerates scheduled income tax cuts. It also includes tax breaks for businesses to encourage investment in new equipment and provides for checks of up to \$400 per child to be issued in 2003.

Edward Jones has been a prominent proponent of the tax cut plan, especially the provisions regarding double taxation of dividends. Currently, a corporation pays income tax on the company's earnings. If a portion of the earnings is paid to the investor in the form of a dividend, the investor pays a second income tax on those same earnings.

"Since WWII, economists have agreed that taxing dividends twice is not good public policy," Bachmann said. "We now have a president and Congress that have had the courage to address this issue." More than 35,000 Edward Jones customers signed petitions urging total elimination of dividend taxation. While the approved tax package doesn't completely eliminate taxes on dividends, it does significantly reduce them through 2009.

"On average, this bill reduces dividend taxation by more than 60 percent," said Mike Esser, an Edward Jones principal responsible for government affairs. "This is a terrific victory for all individual investors, especially those retirees who depend heavily on dividend income."

Rick Lazio, former New York congressman and now president and CEO of the Financial Services Forum, credited both Edward Jones and its customers --with making sure the double taxation of dividends was addressed in the package.

"Edward Jones, its associates, and its customers were a driving force in the effort to address double taxation of dividends. When the president proposed his plan, it was written off by leaders on both sides of the aisle, but Edward Jones would not give in. They kept the issue alive and brought it to the fore throughout the winter and spring. With tireless effort like no other firm, the people of Edward Jones were essential to the passage of this legislation that will be so beneficial to their clients: individual investors," Lazio said.

The Financial Services Forum is a trade group made up of the 25 largest financial-services firms

and Edward Jones.

Edward Jones, the only major financial-services firm advising individual investors exclusively, traces its roots to 1871 and currently serves more than 6 million clients. The firm offers it clients a variety of investments, including certificates of deposit, taxable and non-taxable bonds, stocks and mutual funds.

The largest firm in the nation in terms of branch offices, Edward Jones currently has more than 8,800 offices in the U.S. and, through its affiliates, in Canada and the United Kingdom. Plans call for expansion to 10,000 offices in 2004.

### Coping with mold

They are everywhere - in the air, on your clothes, walls, carpet - waiting for the right convergence of moisture and food. Where water from a leak in a roof, a seeping pipe or some other source meets sheetrock, wood, carpets or some other tasty morsel, they grow and spread. Then these lowly mold spores become a headache - or, for some, a more serious health threat.

"Mold is a fungus, and it has a useful function in nature because it breaks down organic material," said Claren Kotrla, chief of the bureau of environmental health at the Texas Department of Health (TDH). "Unfortunately, the destructive properties that make it so useful outdoors can become a health hazard when molds are

active inside a home or building."

He said one of the reasons mold has become a problem recently is because modern homes and buildings are designed to be energy efficient. "As a result of greater insulation in buildings, we no longer have the natural ventilation and air circulation that tend to keep mold growth in check," Kotrla said. However, good construction techniques that prevent water intrusion can reduce the potential for mold exposure.

Because mold spores and the building materials they feed on are ever present, the best way to prevent mold growth is to control moisture.

"A good maintenance program - inspecting for potential water leaks following a heavy rain, high winds or any construction that penetrates the roof - goes a long way to prevent mold problems," Kotrla said. TDH recommends that maintenance supervisors at schools, other public buildings and businesses include mold prevention strategies in a comprehensive maintenance plan.

Homeowners also should check periodically for possible water leaks. In addition, Kotrla offered some steps for controlling mold in and around the home:

\*Clean bathrooms often with bleach and keep surfaces dry.

\*Repair water leaks promptly and properly.

\*Ensure that the home has

The Observer/Enterprise Friday, June 20, 2003 Page 7

adequate ventilation, including exhaust fans in the kitchen and bathrooms.

\*Do not carpet bathrooms, basements, kitchens or other areas prone to collect moisture.

Homeowners can deal with minor mold problems by wiping down the affected area with bleach and removing and replacing moldy materials. Kotrla advises those who need to remove larger amounts of mold to close off the affected area, turn off air conditioning, wear gloves and eye protection and then wash their clothes promptly. If there is extensive damage due to flooding or an undiscovered leak, professional help may be required.

People with asthma, immunocompromised people, the very young and the elderly should avoid exposure to mold and should not be present when mold is removed from a building, Kotrla said.

Individual reactions to mold exposure vary widely from watery eyes to severe respiratory distress and often depend on such factors as amount and type of molds present, length and frequency of exposure and the health of the individuals at the time of exposure. Many people who are sensitive to mold have flu-like symptoms - headache, congestion, sneezing, coughing and throat irritation.

TDH's indoor air quality program has additional guidelines for preventing mold in schools and other public buildings and information for consumers on preventing mold in the home, cleaning up or removing mold, possible health effects and a list of businesses that specialize in mold remediation. These materials are available online at [www.tdh.state.tx.us/beh/jaq/](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/beh/jaq/) or by calling (800) 293-0753.

## NOTICE OF GAS RATE INCREASE REQUEST

TXU Gas Company (the "Company"), in accordance with the Gas Utility Regulatory Act as set forth in the Texas Utilities Code, hereby gives notice of its intent to implement a new schedule of rates for natural gas service to be charged to all of the customers served by the Company in the incorporated municipalities and unincorporated areas in the Company's statewide gas utility system (the "System"). The proposed revisions to the respective rate schedules will impact all classes of service and all fees and charges presently being assessed by the Company on its transmission and distribution systems. As of the filing date of the Company's Statement of Intent to change rates, the proposed rates are expected to approximately produce a \$69,524,311 or a 7.24 percent increase in the Company's annual revenues from customers in the System. The proposed change will affect approximately 1,344,030 residential, 125,603 commercial, and 1,441 industrial sales and transportation customers in the System. The proposed change constitutes a "major" change as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code. The proposed changes will have differing impacts on individual customers, depending on consumption and current applicable rate schedules. The proposed changes in rates will not become effective for environs customers until similar changes have become effective within the nearest incorporated city or town. A residential customer receiving a bill for 6 Mcf will see a bill of approximately \$41.69, which would constitute an average increase of approximately \$3.59 per month or a 9.4% increase. A commercial customer receiving a bill for 30 Mcf will see a bill of approximately \$173.04, which would constitute an average increase of approximately \$13.91 per month or a 8.7% increase. The effect of the proposed changes to rates and services for industrial sales and transportation customers, which may be significant for individual customers, will vary depending on type of service and consumption. The proposed change would constitute an increase of \$0.00 or a 0% increase in annual revenues to the Company for industrial sales and transportation customers. A complete copy of the Statement of Intent, filed with the Railroad Commission of Texas and all of the System cities and towns on May 23, 2003, is available for inspection in the Company business office located at 1601 Bryan St., Dallas, Texas 75201. Persons with specific area questions or who want information about this filing may contact TXU Gas Company at 1-800-460-3030. Any affected persons located inside of the city limits of a municipality served by the Company may file written comments or protest concerning the proposed change in rates with their respective municipality. Any affected persons located outside of the city limits of a municipality served by the Company may file written comments or protest concerning the proposed change in rates with Docket Services Section of the Legal Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, but have a limited time to do so. Pursuant to the Rules of the Railroad Commission of Texas, Title 16 of the Texas Administrative Code Section 7.230, any affected persons may file written comments or a protest concerning the proposed change in the environs rates with the Docket Services Section of the Railroad Commission of Texas, at any time within 30 days following the date on which the change would or has become effective. The Company is proposing to have these proposed rates become effective on June 27, 2003.

Este es un aviso para informar a los clientes de TXU Gas Company (la "Compañía") que la Compañía está solicitando un aumento en la tarifa de gas. Este aumento afectara a todos los consumidores de gas de la Compañía en el estado de Texas. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta con respecto a este aumento, por favor llame a TXU Gas Company al 1-800-460-3030.

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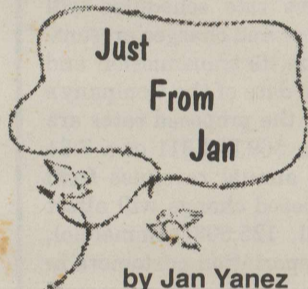
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The damage to the interior of the Richard Bruner home on Wednesday evening, June 11, was extensive. However, since the home's exterior is metal, the damage is much less noticeable on the outside.



by Jan Yanez  
Cooperative  
Extension Agent

**Safe guard against vacation theft**

Summer vacation season is here. Most vacationers will have a wonderful time and return with souvenirs and happy memories. Others will return the victims of theft.

Most homeowner's and tenant's insurance policies cover the theft of personal belongings when you are away from home. This includes items which may be stolen from a car, hotel room, or from your bag on the beach. Check your insurance policy or with your agent to determine what the policy covers. This is also a good time to make sure items such as cameras and

sporting equipment you carry on the trip are covered by the policy.

Bring the insurance company's telephone number with you. If you have any problems you can call them to get instructions for filing a claim and what paperwork, such as a police report, needs to accompany the claim. Also, make an inventory of the items you take on the trip to help determine what was stolen in the event of a theft. Include jewelry, camera and video equipment, credit card account numbers and the telephone numbers to call to report lost cards and other valuables. Another option is to leave the list at home with a friend or relative you can call if a theft occurs or bring the list with you and leave it in the hotel safe. Have multiple copies of this list for reference in case a theft occurs. Have a safe summer.

**RLVFD news**

by Marian Thompson  
Secretary

Thunderbusters, rolling thunder that shakes your house, lightning, cloud to cloud, cloud to ground. Oops, the lights went



This medical helicopter landed in Bronte Tuesday morning, June 17. Coke County Sheriff's Deputy Adam Richter and Larry Dyess with the East Coke County Ambulance Service help load the patient on board.

out. Light the candles! Where is the flashlight! One night they were out for over 1/2 hour. Wind gusts in excess of 60 miles per hour. Trees stripped of their leaves. Huge old trees uprooted and landing on the house, or if you were lucky, in the yard. Shingles blown off the roof, storage sheds coming apart and heavy rain. Small hail in town, but up on the Divide, they had golf ball size and larger. Twice the clouds dropped over 3 inches of rain in town.

At my house, I have tracked almost 14 inches so far this month.

Flash flooding, The National Weather Service, has had Coke County on Flood Warning all last week. Mountain Creek went over its banks twice, it flooded the golf course, debris was hitting the bottom of the bridge on Hwy. 158. City lake overflowed its banks and the Fern Havins Park had water up to the road.

This has been a busy month for the Sky Warn Teams. The Robert Lee and Bronte fireman are the Sky Watchers. Often these violent storms will produce tornadoes. The team goes out to high places and watch for any sign of rotation, and flooded streets and highways.

The fire department was called out 2 nights in a row. June 10th, they received a call as did Bronte Fire Dept. at 8:30 pm. There was a fire south of 2662

between Hwy. 208 and 277. There were 6 vehicles looking for a road to get to the fire. 2 from Bronte, 3 from Robert Lee and 1 sheriff's department. Robert Lee had a pickup with 4 wheel drive and finally found the house and the owner was watching it burn. The owner went to the road and led the firemen in to put out the debris, the wind had kicked up and sparks were flying. He told the firemen he had inherited the house and land and came to check it out. The 150+ year old house had been used for all kinds of storage, including straw and hay. He was accosted by a skunk, ran from the building dropping his cigarette. He got into his pickup and looked back at the house and it was already on fire. He didn't know he could call 9-1-1 from his cell phone.

On June 11th, at 9:56 pm, the firemen were called to a fire on

Childress. There was a lightning strike behind the house at 4:46 as per Doppler Radar. It was a metal house on a cement slab. It served as a ground for the lightning strike. The fire smoldered for 5 hours before someone saw smoke and called 9-1-1. The steel doors hampered the firemen from gaining entrance to the house. The residents were moving and spending the night at the new house, so no one was home. This was a very hot fire. Firemen estimate the temperature inside the house must have reached at least 300 degrees. The fire department made use of the new exhaust fans. The black smoke was very thick and the fans pulling the smoke out enabled them to do their work. One room was engulfed and had severe damage, the remainder of the house suffered heat and smoke damage.

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