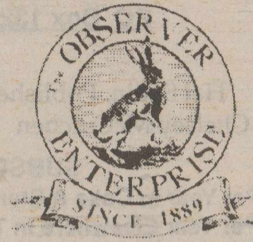


THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

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Friday, February 18, 2005

Blood drive slated for Tuesday in Robert Lee

"United Blood Services is asking Robert Lee residents to come out and give blood in the name of Les Copeland," says John Perry of United Blood Services. "Robert Lee residents banded together to help Mr. Copeland when he needed them, we hope they band together in his memory," John Perry says. Robert Lee residents are asked to give the Gift of Life this Valentine season. UBS has scheduled a blood drive from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Tuesday, February 22nd, inside the Robert Lee Baptist Church Fellowship Hall located at 22 West 11th.

The blood drive is sponsored by the Robert Lee Baptist Church and is being done in the loving memory of Les Copeland. For an appointment please contact Becky Ross at 453-2724.

UBS is asking all that are eligible to stop by the blood drive to donate lifesaving blood. Potential donors must be at least 17 years old and be in good health. For more information on the blood drive call United Blood Services at 1-800-756-0024, or visit www.UnitedBlood

Services.org.

UBS is the area's nonprofit community blood service provider, serving patients in 10 area hospitals. It takes 300 blood donations every week to meet the needs of area patients.

County, city closings posted

The Coke County Courthouse, Sterling County Courthouse, City Hall in Bronte and City Hall in Robert Lee will be closed on Monday, February 21, in honor of President's Day. Business will resume on Tuesday at 8 am. The City Hall in Sterling City will not be closed.

Local election filing continues

Filing for a place on the ballot for local elections to be held in May is continuing through March 7, 2005.

Bronte ISD will elect two 3 year trustees. These offices are currently held by Kendall Gibbs and Scott Frasier. Currently, no one has filed.

Robert Lee ISD will need to elect three trustees. The 3 year term of Mark Riley is expiring,



Rodeo Princesses! Stacia Emfinger (left) and Whitney Boyd were chosen Saturday, February 12, 2005, to be two of the seven 2005 San Angelo Little Rodeo Princesses. Each of these young ladies will present the winner of their performance's Mutton Busting contest with a pair of Justin boots. Stacia will reign over the performance Sunday, February 20, at 3 pm and Whitney will reign at the 7:30 pm performance Friday, February 25. Whitney is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marty Boyd of Bronte. Mr. and Mrs. Steve Emfinger of Tennyson are Stacia's parents.

Coke Comment

by Hal Spain, Publisher

It is my firm belief that news reporters spend almost all of their time reporting bad news. I don't know why it is, but it seems like most stories you watch on the nightly news or read in the paper tend to concentrate on the negative. I guess that's what sells newspapers.

And, after a close self-inspection, I am guilty of the same syndrome. Seems like the only time I am inspired to take pen in hand (or computer, in my case) is when I perceive some type of injustice, or something that "just ain't right".

Mark this week as the exception. As you are aware, last week's front page picture included a cutline explaining how the Coke County Commissioners' Court was poised to implement new septic system regulations which were more restrictive than those adopted by the state. This was

the subject of a lengthy public hearing held on Tuesday, February 8, 2005.

Over 60 residents attended that meeting, and most were opposed to the new regs. Oak Creek resident Lee Wommack presented the court with a petition containing 81 signatures opposing the implementation of the new restrictions. Commissioners were polled at the meeting, and all except Commissioner Snapp indicated they would pass the new, more restrictive policy.

However, during their regular meeting on February 14, the court reversed their original position and voted to reinstate the 10-acre exemption rule, which is what most of those at the public hearing were favoring.

Commissioner Bill Wheat made the motion, seconded by George Snapp, to reinstate the 10-acre exemption. Voting for

the motion were Wheat, Snapp, Commissioner Gene Montgomery, and County Judge Roy Blair. The lone dissenting vote was cast by Commissioner Gaylon Pitcock.

I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to the court for listening to their constituents. It's good to know that our representative system of government is still working, at least on the local level.

Another important note on a completely different topic concerns our bluebonnet project. Bluebonnet Brigade Chairman John Stephens stopped by this afternoon and reported an abundant crop of little bluebonnets in the barrow ditches. He reminded residents to avoid driving in the barrow ditches, if at all possible. Brigade volunteers will meet later on in the spring to once again continue the beautification project throughout the county.

as are the two 3 year unexpired terms with 2 years remaining currently held by Tom Sawyer, Jr., and Tod Reed. Tod Reed, appointed to the Board to fill a vacancy, has filed for election.

Filing continues in the school administration offices.

West Coke County Hospital District will also need to elect two trustees for 2 year terms. These offices are currently held by Doug Wilkes and Judy Williams. Interested candidates may pick up and file their application in the administration office of Robert Lee Care Center. Currently no one has filed an application.

Two 2 year terms currently held by Doris Sims and Alonzo Robbins are expiring in the East Coke County Hospital District. Filing will be held in the administration office of Bronte Health & Rehab Center. Currently no one has filed an application.

The City of Bronte will be conducting an election for City Council positions for two (2) full-term and one (1) one-year due to a vacancy. Those members terms expiring are Gerald Sandusky and Elton Moore.

Both gentlemen have filed for re-election. Jimmie Guthrie has filed for the one-year unexpired term.

The City of Robert Lee will be conducting an election for City Council positions for three (3) full-term members. Those members' terms expiring are: Nita Stovall-Duncan, Jayson Treadaway, and John Carver. Brian Hamrick has filed for a place on the ballot.

Filing continues at both City Halls.

CC Retired Teachers set meeting

Coke County Retired Teachers Association will meet Monday, February 21, 2005. The noon luncheon meeting will be held at the First Baptist Church in Bronte.

Bird & Wildlife

Association slate meeting
The Caliche Loop Bird and Wildlife Association will meet Wednesday, March 2. The meeting will be held at the Cotton Patch restaurant in San Angelo at 7 pm. Each attendee is responsible for the cost of their meal.

Tally sheets for the February 18-21 bird count are available at Robert Lee City Hall.

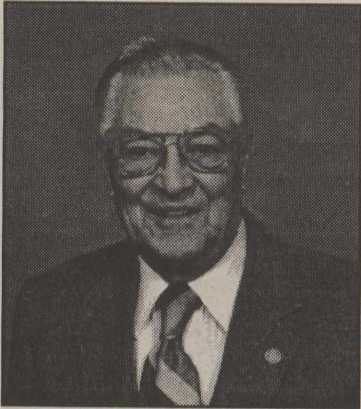
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Obituaries



Kiker
 Norman Ray "Wink" Kiker, 92, died Saturday, February 12, 2005, at Shannon Hospital.

He was born in Bronte on October 23, 1912, to John Ray and Bessie Green Kiker. After the death of his parents in 1916 and 1914, Norman lived with his grandparents, Sparks Alonzo and Sarah Dellah Kiker.

He graduated from Bronte High School in 1930 and Texas A&M College in 1942. He was married to Erna La Verne Smith from October 9, 1949 until her death on January 31, 1971. They lived in Bronte where he taught Vocational Ag and in Big Spring, Marfa, San Angelo, and Carrizo Springs, where he worked for the Farmers Home Administration. In 1958 they returned to Bronte when they purchased Central Drug Store. Wink was also the Director of the Housing Authority as well as the contracting officer during housing construction. In addition he was Mayor of Bronte, and served as Coke County Kickapoo Water Control District secretary. In November 1971, he married Ernestine Harris and lived in San Angelo until 1977 when he returned to Bronte.

He is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law; LaJan and Tommy Walter of Jacksonville, Florida, Kreta and Ronnie Lee of Waco, Texas, and Kathy and Gary Don Allen of Liberty, Utah; grandchildren, Kerry Walter, Robyn Lee Hicks, Heather Lee Nay, Amber Lee, Michael Allen, and Marc Allen; 3 great-grandchildren; sister and brother-in-law, Lillian and Carroll Robbins; and two very special friends, Joyce Green and Effie Corley.

Family visitation was Monday, February 14, at Shaffer Funeral Home in Bronte. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery in Ballinger and a memorial service was held at the First Methodist Church in Bronte. 30-1tc

Millican

Jewel "Sue" Millican went to be with the Lord and her family members that have gone before her on February 8, 2005, at the age of 74.

Sue was born January 26, 1931, to M.E. and Ida Josephine Watkins. She was the youngest of 13 children. Her father was a preacher and Sue was raised in the church and was a follower of the Lord all of her life.

She married Finis Millican on July 25, 1948 in San Angelo, Texas. Sue and Finis adopted their only child, a daughter, in October 1967. Being a homemaker, wife, and mother filled Sue's life, but she also held many jobs outside the home, working in Farris Drugstore, WTU, and also owning Dawn Floral for 7 years. After retirement, she worked with her husband as a rancher's wife which was always a full time job.

Sue is preceded in death by six brothers and four sisters.

She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Finis Millican of Robert Lee; their daughter, Sue Ann and husband, Casey Nesbit, also of Robert Lee; three grandchildren, Jennifer of San Angelo, Casey Mare'e, and Stetson, both of Robert Lee; two brothers, Ross Watkins of Dennison and Lucion Watkins of Shepard; her various nieces and nephews; and too many friends to count.

Funeral services were held Friday, February 11, 2005, at 2 pm at the Robert Lee Baptist Church, the burial followed at Paint Creek Cemetery. Services were under direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Waldon Millican, Wibby Millican, Teddy Millican, Marshall Millican, Randy Martin, and Bennie Trowbridge.

Sue blessed every life she touched, heaven has gained a new angel. We love you and miss you. 30-1tc

Warrington

Norma Warrington died Tuesday, January 18, 2005, on her 99th birthday. Funeral service was held at 2 pm Saturday, January 21, in Johnson's Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Ben Hubert officiating. Burial followed in Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens.

She was raised on the family ranch at Hayrick.

She is survived by one sister, Gladys Waldrop of Robert Lee; a daughter, Winona VanSickle of San Angelo; sons, Bill Warrington and wife Stephanie, and Harvey Warrington and wife Loretta, all of San Angelo; six grandchildren; 14 great-

grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

Runnels Baptist Assn. to meet February 20

Runnels Baptist Association will meet Sunday, February 20, for a Music Festival. The Music Festival will be held at 4 pm at First Baptist Church, Ballinger.

The executive board and the W.M.U. will not meet. A meal will be served following the festival.

Dale Ellis, Association Music Director, is in charge of the program. Churches that have individuals, ensembles, instrumentalists, or choirs that would like to sing or play, may contact Dale Ellis at: P.O. Box 564, Ballinger, TX 76821 or phone 365-2830.

Sorosis Study Club meets at BHRC

The Sorosis Study Club members met at the Bronte Health and Rehab Center for information and a demonstration of the Multi Sensory Room at that facility. Mary Ann Choat gave an overall picture of the techniques used in the room involving sight, touch, sound and smell. Members were then

allowed to experience the activities of the room, demonstrated by Debbie Puentez, the Multi Sensory Environment Aide. The results from the use of this room have proved to be very beneficial to the residents of the facility.

The group then went to Diane Lockett's home for a business meeting. Refreshments were served to: Swan Archinal, Marilyn Bivins, Celia Bowden, Jane Cumbie, Jean Fancher, Lanette Fetcher, Mary Frances Glenn, Mary Glenn, Peggy Hembree, Pat Lee, JoAn Lightfoot, Diane Lockett, Earline Moore, Dorthey Pruitt, Doris Sims, Kay Styles, Jane Wheat, and guest, Julie Springer.

BH&R to host local artist

Bronte Health and Rehab has the pleasure of hosting local Christian Artist Julie Eustis on Thursday, February 24, at 3 pm. All residents of Coke County and surrounding areas are invited to join the residents and staff for this event.

Evangelistic Meeting
at Victory Assembly of God of Robert Lee
by Bernie Guebara
February 20-22
Sunday • 10:45 am & 6 pm
Monday and Tuesday • 6 pm

Area Churches
Invite You to Worship

<p>Bronte Church of Christ PO Box 346 • 118 S. Jefferson Bronte (325) 473-3291 Preacher John V. Driggers Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm Central Baptist Church 324 S. Franklin • Bronte (325) 473-4811 Tim White, Pastor Sun. 10 am Sunday School 11 am & 6 pm Worship Wed. 6 pm Emmanuel Pentecostal PO Box 683 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy Robert Lee (325) 453-2360 Rev. Ray Aldridge, Pastor Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm First Baptist Church 424 S. Washington • Bronte (325) 473-2331 Bro. Morris Johnson, Pastor Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School, 10:55 am Worship, 6 pm Youth and Worship Wednesday 7 pm Prayer Meeting First United Methodist Church Corner of Washington & Holmes Bronte (325) 473-3281 Rev. Larry Tianen Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 5:00 Youth First United Methodist Church PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne Robert Lee (325) 453-2417 Rev. Steve Rowe, Pastor Sun. 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Wed. 7 pm Choir Iglesia Bautista Bethel 101 Houston • Robert Lee (325) 453-5003 • 453-2296 Pastor: Basilio Esquivel Sun. 9:45, 11:00, & 11:30 am & 6 pm, Wednesday 7 pm</p>	<p>Northside Church of Christ PO Box 388 • 9th & Chadbourne Robert Lee (325) 453-2619 or 453-2270 Tommy Williams, Minister Services: Sun. 10 am & 6 pm; Wed. 7 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church 601 W. 10th, Robert Lee (325) 365-2687 Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor Sat. 6 pm Pecan Baptist PO Box 542 • 12 miles West of Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy • (325) 453-2004 Rev. Richard Easterling, Pastor Sun. 10 am, Sunday School 11 am & 7 pm, Worship Robert Lee Baptist Church PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th (325) 453-2724 Bro. Mike Poye, Pastor Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School 11 am & 7 pm, Worship Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting Southside Church of Christ PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston Robert Lee (325) 453-2176 Frank J. Daniels, Preacher Sun. 10 am, Sunday School 11 am & 6 pm, Worship Wed. 7 pm, Worship Tennyson Baptist Church Hwy 277 • Tennyson Joe Hodges, Pastor (325) 468-0014 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School 11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship Wed. 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting Victory Assembly of God PO Box 638 • 6th & Houston Robert Lee (325) 453-2208 Rev. Irene Ford, Pastor Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School 10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship Wed. 6 pm, Prayer Meeting</p>
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CSP meetings scheduled for Upper Colorado Watershed

The Upper Colorado Watershed, located in portions of Coke, Runnels, Nolan, Sterling, and Mitchell counties in Texas, was selected as one of the 202 watersheds nationwide to participate in the 2005 Conservation Security Program (CSP) signup. The signup for CSP will be in February/March 2005 pending publication of the final CSP rule in the Federal Register.

The Conservation Security Program is a stewardship program providing payments to producers who maintain and enhance their natural resources. Producers may be eligible for one of three tiered payments depending on the amount of conservation already applied on the land.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service NRCS will administer CSP. Only producers practicing the highest levels of conservation will be eligible to participate. A self assessment must be completed by producers documenting their benchmark conservation level prior to visiting the NRCS office to apply for CSP.

CSP public meetings have been scheduled in the Upper Colorado Watershed to inform farmers and ranchers about the eligibility requirements and application process.

The Robert Lee meeting will be held at 9 am on Tuesday, March 8, at the Courthouse in Robert Lee.

The meeting for Maryneal is at 2 pm Tuesday, March 8, in the Maryneal Community Center.

CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other natural resources on private working lands. Working lands include cropland, grassland, and improved pasture, as well as forested land that is an incidental part of an

agriculture operation. For more information or to obtain a workbook visit the Upper Colorado Watershed CSP website at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/program/csp or contact your local NRCS office.

FSA Holding Lamb Referendum

The Lamb Checkoff Program Referendum is being held from January 31, 2005, through close of business February 28, 2005. To be eligible to participate, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as sales receipt or remittance form, that show they have been engaged in the production, feeding or slaughtering of lambs during the period January 1 through December 31, 2004.

From now through February 28, persons may obtain form LS-86 to vote in the referendum from the County FSA Offices. Forms may also be obtained at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mpb/rp-lamb.htm>.

Voting will be held at the County Office where their administrative farm records as maintained. Form LS-86 and documentation returned by mail must be postmarked no later than February 28 and received in the County Office by March 7, 2005.

Producers may come by the office or call (325) 453-2751 for additional information.

64 Study Club meets in Robert Lee

The '64 Study Club of Robert Lee met Tuesday, February 8, 2005 with 29 members and one visitor present. The meeting was called to order by the President, Della Alexander. The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was given and thank you notes for the contributions from the club were read from the Robert Lee Fire Department, EMS, and Carol

Eggemeyer of West Texas Rehab. Carolyn Long offered a prayer of thanks for the food and everyone enjoyed a meal of sandwiches, chips, dips, desserts, etc. After the completion of the meal, Nettie Autry reported that the club had helped raise over \$3800.00 for West Texas Rehab., with more expected to come.

Virginia Milliff, chairman of the scholarship committee, announced that 21 Robert Lee High School Seniors will be receiving letters concerning applications for scholarship. The applications received will be approved at the April meeting.

Johnetta Lawrence, social chairman, reported to the members the prices and choices of caterers available for the annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Banquet for 2005. After discussion, the club voted and approved to have these events for 2005 with the price per ticket and the caterer agreed upon.

The program was presented by Winton Milliff. Winton is with the Underground Water Conservation office and gave a very informational talk and film presentation concerning the process of preserving and conserving our underground water supply. Mr. Milliff very effectively made all members aware of the importance of water conservation.

The "Fantastic Five" celebrating February birthdays this month were: Joan Cantrell, Bette Hurley, Charlotte McKnight, Deone Roe, and Jackie Walker.

Hostesses for this meeting were Nettie Autry, Jennie Tinkler, Beth Prather, Yvonne Devoll, Bette Hurley, Patsy Gunnels, and Carol Hardaway. The room was decorated with a Valentine theme including hearts and floral arrangements of roses on the tables, depicting that our hearts should be filled with love for our neighbors and our community.

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SPECIALS GOOD 2/16 Thru 2/22
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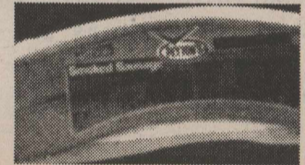
Small Package
\$1.19 per pound

Cello Wrapped

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Peyton's Regular or Polish

Smoked Sausage



14 oz. pkg. **\$.99**

Town Talk White Bread
2 24 oz. loaves / \$1



Assorted
Wesson Oil

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Assorted Varieties • Reg. \$2.99 Size



Lay's® or Wavy Lay's®

2 13 oz. bag / \$4

Coca Cola, Sprite or Dasani Water

3 12 oz. cans / \$10



ATTENTION ALL BRONTE AREA VOTERS

I have been notified that a petition is circulating around Bronte to call an election to overturn the recently passed county-wide beer and wine election. At first thought this may sound like a good plan, seeing that the Bronte area voted against this measure as a whole.

What this will actually do, if successful, is to put this side of the county in a worse competitive situation than we were before the election. If Robert Lee stores have beer and wine for sale and Bronte does not, where do you think our hunters and fishermen are going to go to get their groceries, corn, etc.?

I was not one of the individuals who promoted the initial election or signed the initial petition. However, after its passing, I cannot sit by and watch our business continue to go out of town and out of county.

Please do not sign this petition. It will jeopardize the competitive existence of your local businesses.

Thank you,
Kerry Hall

ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS

Discover ASU schedule set for Spring

Angelo State University's Admissions Office will host four Saturday sessions of "Discover ASU" this spring to allow high school seniors and others considering college careers to get a closer look at what ASU has to offer in the way of programs, scholarships, housing, financial aid and extracurricular activities.

Discover ASU programs are scheduled for March 5, April 9 and April 23 on the Angelo State University campus in San Angelo. Each program will begin with registration at 8:30 am, followed at 9:15 am with a welcome from ASU President James Hindman and an overview of the university. Tours and a special program will follow the opening session. The university will provide a complimentary lunch for students and their families.

The March 5 program will be in the Houston Harte University Center at 1910 Rosemont Drive. The April 9 and April 23 sessions are planned for the Center for Human Performance, 2050 S. Johnson St.

General information will be available on financial aid, Carr Academic Scholarships, student organizations, residence halls and extracurricular activities. Special sessions will cover academic and pre-professional programs.

For more information on



Breakfast

Monday, Feb. 21

Juice, donut, cereal, milk

Tuesday, Feb. 22

Juice, burrito, cereal, milk

Wed., Feb. 23

Juice, muffin, cereal, milk

Thurs., Feb. 24

Juice, cinnamon roll, cereal, milk

Friday, Feb. 25

Juice, sausage, biscuit, cereal, milk

Lunch

Monday, Feb. 21

Pizza, corn, salad, applesauce, teddy grahams, milk

Tuesday, Feb. 22

Chicken strips, mac & cheese, green beans, sliced bread, pears, milk

Wed., Feb. 23

Grilled cheese sandwich, soup, crackers, pickles, fruit cocktail, milk

Thurs., Feb. 24

Taco, cheese, salad, ranch beans, Spanish rice, fresh fruit, milk

Friday, Feb. 25

BBQ on bun, pickles, potato wedges, pork & beans, peaches, milk

Discover ASU, which was previously known as "College Days," contact the ASU Admissions Office at (325) 942-2058 or visit the university Web site at www.angelo.edu.

ACT test registration deadline set March 4

College-bound high school students can take the ACT Assessment on April 9, 2005, the next nationwide test date. The registration postmark deadline is March 4. Late registration postmark deadline is March 18 (an additional fee is required for late registration).

The ACT Assessment now contains an optional Writing Test. Some colleges will require writing scores from students entering college in the fall of 2006. Students should check the admissions requirements of colleges they are considering before deciding whether to register for the ACT with or without the Writing Test.

Students can receive registration information from their high school guidance counselors or they can register on ACT's website at www.act-student.org. The website also features test tips, practice tests, and a database for students to find out if a prospective college requires a writing score.

ACT encourages eleventh graders to examine their ACT scores for academic weaknesses and take more challenging courses to receive extra help to grow strong in important academic areas. The ACT Assessment includes four tests; English, reading, math, and science. Students who opt to take the Writing Test will add 30 minutes to the 3-hour normal testing time.

School board candidate workshop offers information

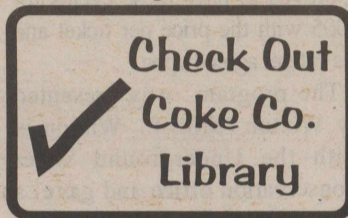
Area school board candidates and interested citizens can learn more about the demands and rewards of school board service at a candidate workshop, Monday, February 28, 7-9 pm at the Region 15 Education Service Center (612 S. Irene St., San Angelo).

The workshop will provide interested community members and individuals thinking about running for the board with a better understanding of what is involved in being elected and serving as a local trustee. Experienced school board members will explain board members' key responsibilities and outline the qualities necessary for effective service.

Topics to be covered include what it's like to be a trustee, key responsibilities of the board, division of authority with staff, how to

campaign constructively, and where to find more information. Participants will also view A Call to Service, a Texas Association of School Boards' video highlighting many aspects of board service and featuring several experienced school trustees.

The workshop is free and open to anyone. For more information about the workshop, call Brenda Canul at TASB, 512-467-0222 or 800-580-8272, extension 6104, or check the TASB Web Site at www.tasb.org.



Westerns are a large part of the Coke County Library collection. Every western writer from Max Brand to Charles West is represented.

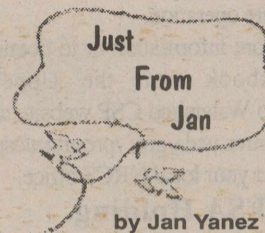
Max Brand was the pen name of Frederick Faust who was born in Seattle in the late 1800's. He created the Dr. Kildare character among others. He wrote approximately 530 books on everything from science to animals, to medicine, to romance. He was killed in Italy during World War II where he went to serve as a war correspondent. His biography on the Max Brand web site states that he wrote three lines of poetry in the morning and 20 pages of prose in the afternoon.

Matt Braun was raised in Oklahoma and grew up among the Cherokee and Osage tribes. One of his ancestors was a partner of Charles Goodnight and at one point they owned one million acres of land and had over 100,000 head of cattle with their brand. He lives in a "remote section of mountains" and keeps fit by chopping wood and practicing combat pistol shooting.

The list of western writers available at the library includes the all-time favorite regional author Elmer Kelton whose books sit on the shelf right before the Louis L'Amour collection.

The library has been told that the Easter Bunny is getting things ready for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn of the Courthouse on Tuesday, March 22. It's time to get out the Easter baskets already.

Library hours are Tuesdays, 8-12; Wednesdays, 8-4; Thursdays, 1-5; and Fridays, 8-12. Story Hour is Tuesday at 10:00 am and Head Start Story Time is Wednesday at 9:30 am. Books may be returned to the book drop on the porch of the library 24/7 and may be returned to the Main Street Market in Bronte.



by Jan Yanez
Cooperative
Extension Agent

Ten Ways to Take Charge of Your Health

Doctor - 1. Make a date (and keep it). Each year on your birthday schedule a check-up with your doctor. Have your blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose levels checked, and ask your doctor to help you reach or maintain a healthy weight.

Physical Activity - 2. Tone up as you tune in. Step, march or jog in place for at least 15 minutes a day while you're watching television. Increase your activity by 5 minutes each week until you're getting at least 30 minutes on most days of the week.

3. Grab some H₂O. Take a water bottle with you wherever you go. You can get plenty of water and the bottle's weight will strengthen your arms.

Eating - 4. Keep out of sight, out of mouth. Keep unhealthy food hidden away. Put raw veggies and fruits in the front of your refrigerator. Keep healthy snacks in the front of your pantry. If you keep grabbing healthy foods at least 21 times, you'll soon make them a habit. Also, look for the American Heart Association's heart-check mark. This grocery shopping tool helps you identify food that can be part of a sensible eating plan.

5. Eat lean to be lean. Foods high in saturated fat can lead to high cholesterol. Help keep your cholesterol down by eating

foods low in saturated fat, such as lean beef, chicken or turkey (roasted or baked, with skin removed), fruits and veggies, low-fat or nonfat yogurt or pasta. Look for American Heart Association cookbooks for healthy and delicious recipes.

6. Shake the salt habit. Help lower high blood pressure by watching your salt intake. Often you'll find it disguised in food labels as sodium alginate, sodium sulfite, sodium caseinate, disodium phosphate, sodium benzoate, sodium hydroxide, monosodium glutamate (MSG) and sodium citrate.

Smoking - 7. Kick butts. If you smoke, quit. Try this four-step way to snuff your habit. Day 1, cut the number of cigarettes you smoke by half. Day 3, cut the number of cigarettes you smoke in half again. Day 5, cut your smoking in half again. On your Quit Day - quit!

Overweight and Obesity - 8. Be a good loser. Excess weight increases your risk of heart disease, stroke and diabetes. To achieve steady, painless weight loss, take it easy. Eat 200-300 calories less each day, and exercise at least 30 minutes on five days a week or more and you'll get closer to your goal.

General - 9. Don't let a slip keep you down. If you get off your exercise schedule, have a cigarette or mess up on a meal, just get back on track immediately with more determination to establish a healthy lifestyle.

10. Say "Yea for me!" Keep track of your achievements in exercising, losing weight or quitting smoking. When you reach a goal, reward yourself by doing something you enjoy.

Be Wise
and open an IRA
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Bronte Longhorn basketball results

The Bronte Longhorn varsity took a close game against Robert Lee 45-44. Stats for Bronte: Sherman Griffin 13 pts.; Garrett Jackson 3 pts.; Riley Coalson 6 pts.; Logan Rawls 19 pts., 6 rebounds, 4 assists, 4 steals; and Eric Hendrickson 4 pts., 5 rebounds.

The Bronte boys varsity lost to Panther Creek 24-37. Stats for Bronte: Sherman Griffin 6 pts.; Garrett Jackson 3 pts.; Riley Coalson 4 pts., 6 rebounds; Logan Rawls 6 pts., 11 rebounds; Eric Hendrickson 3 pts.; and Jonathan Marrs 2 pts.

Bronte finished 3rd in District with a 9-5 record.

Bronte JV boys basketball results

On the 8th, the Bronte JV boys outscored Robert Lee 33-29. Scoring for Bronte: Johnathan Ehl 5; Gus Saunders 2; Zack Bennett 3; Brett Wills 4; Paul McConnell 4; Adam Halfacre 14; and Kyler Lee 1.

On the 11th the JV team lost a close game to Panther Creek 36-38. Scoring for Bronte: Johnathan Ehl 3; Gus Saunders 6; Brett Wills 19; Paul McConnell 2; Adam Halfacre 4; and Kyler Lee 2.

Bronte boys 7th grade basketball results

In the Eden Tournament on the 3rd, Bronte lost a close game to Irion County 23-20. Scoring for Bronte: Matthew Halfacre 3 and Rob Rosson 17.

In the tournament on the 5th, Bronte won against Brookesmith 18-26. Scoring for Bronte: Matthew Halfacre 1; Bill Miller 2; Louie

Martinez 1; Rob Rosson 13; Jackson Rowan 3; Tyler Riney 4; and Wesley Suter 2.

Bronte 7th graders won against Lohn 8-33. Scoring for Bronte: Bill Miller 3; Rob Rosson 20; Hayden White 4; Jackson Rowan 4; and Tyler Riney 2.

BISD board news

The Public Hearing for the waiver for the early start date was held February 10, 2005, at 6 pm in the board room. Those in attendance were Wayne Coalson, Terry Charles, Jeff Schoenfield, Kendall Gibbs, Bob Frazee, Rick Howell, Terry Marrs, and Superintendent, Alan Richey. The 2005-2006 tentative calendar was discussed and the proposed early start date of August 16, 2005. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.

The Public Hearing on the TEA Academic Excellence Indicators System was also held February 10 in the board room starting at 6:30 pm. Kendall Gibbs, Terry Charles, Wayne Coalson, Jeff Schoenfield, Bob Frazee, Scott Frasier, Gary Acker, Rick Howell, Terry Marrs, and Superintendent, Alan Richey attended the meeting. AEIS ratings were presented. The Bronte ISD campus was recognized with the Gold Performance

Acknowledgement for Attendance Rate. The high school received the Gold Performance Acknowledgement in TAAS/TASP Equivalency and the Elementary for Reading. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

The regular board meeting started at 6:40 pm in the board room. Those in attendance were Wayne Coalson, Terry Charles, Kendall Gibbs, Jeff Schoenfield, Bob Frazee, Gary Acker, Scott Frasier, and Superintendent, Alan Richey. Also present were Rick Howell and Terry Marrs.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Terry Marrs.

Karla Hamrick presented the possibility of a grant program that would assist in after school programs for the county.

Terry Marrs, Elementary Principal, and Rick Howell, Secondary Principal, gave their reports.

The board set March 9,



BHS Seniors Celebrate Valentine's Day! Project Graduation parents treated the 2005 Bronte High School Class to a Valentine's Day party Monday evening, February 14, 2005. The group met in Bronte and traveled to the skating rink in Ballinger. Myron and Jody Halford were kind enough to donate the use of the rink and Godfather's Pizza donated the fuel to keep the kids and parents having fun! The group enjoyed several skating games during the course of the evening, with the parents defeating the Seniors 3-0 in a wild and woolly hockey game. Seniors attending the activity included (from left) Vanessa Lange, Callie Johnson, Sherman Griffin, Monica Whipple, Cory Cooper, Ashley McCutchen, Ashleigh Kelly, Justin Frazee, Garrett Jackson, Cody Moore, Terence Scott, and Blaine Dyess.

2005, and April 13, 2005, for the next board meetings. The site based retreat this year will be Saturday, April 23, 2005. The board ordered the School Board Election for May 7, 2005. The dates to file for a place on the ballot are February 7, 2005, through March 7, 2005. The offices are currently held by Kendall Gibbs and Scott Frasier.

The board considered a tentative school calendar for 2005-2006 and reviewed the board member's training credits for 2004. The 22-1 waiver and the list of textbook adoptions were approved. Lee Wommack was nominated by the board for the Coke County Appraisal District.

The board extended all Principal's contracts by one year. The board was informed that Alan Richey had received the resignation of Loretta Bridges.

Alan Richey, Superintendent, gave legislative update and a construction update.

Bronte ISD Daycare will be

featured in a Board Association magazine.

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 11:59 pm.



School Menu

Breakfast

Monday, Feb. 21

Cereal, sliced peaches, toast, jelly, milk

Tuesday, Feb. 22

Pancake and sausage on a stick, assorted juice, syrup, milk

Wed., Feb. 23

Sausage rolls, mixed fruit, milk

Thurs., Feb. 24

French toast sticks, assorted juice, syrup, milk

Friday, Feb. 25

Rodeo Holiday

Lunch

Monday, Feb. 21

Burrito, tossed salad, ranch style beans, sliced peaches, milk

Tuesday, Feb. 22

Spaghetti, tossed salad, corn, mixed fruit, bread sticks, chocolate pudding, milk

Wed., Feb. 23

Taco salad, pinto beans, Spanish rice, lettuce & tomato, tortilla chips, jello, milk

Thurs., Feb. 24

Pigs in a blanket, tator tots, pork & beans, orange half, milk

Friday, Feb. 25

Rodeo Holiday

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDot until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: San Angelo Contract 6126-84-001 for METAL BEAM GUARDFENCE REPAIRS & UPGRADES in COKE County, etc will be received on March 31, 2005 until 1:00 pm and opened on March 31, 2005 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$219,566.80.

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 Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, 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: 15749

State Office
 Constr./Maint. Division
 200 E. Riverside Dr.
 Austin, Texas 78704
 Phone: 512-416-2540
 Dist/Div Office(s)
 San Angelo District
 District Engineer
 4502 Knickerbocker Rd.
 San Angelo, Texas 76904
 Phone: 325-944-1501

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.

30-2tc

RLVFD news

By Marian Thompson
 15 members of RLVFD, 4 members of BVFD, and 8 interested citizens including Meteorologist Andrew LaFavers of KTXS TV in Abilene met with Jonathon Brazzell of the National Weather Service for their annual Skywarn Spotter Class.

He showed slides, films, and gave an excellent class. This was the 8th class I, myself, attended, and I learn something new each time. The classes serve as reminders in what to look for when storms are in our area.

As a reminder, Siren Warning Signals:

Tornado sirens for the City of Robert Lee are: If a tornado is spotted, or the city is in imminent danger of severe weather or very large hail, the fire department members, who are also the

Skywarn Team, are out checking the skies. They are in contact with the National Weather Bureau and they will set off the siren. 3 long blasts of the siren is the signal to take shelter, preferably in a study building, storm cellar or interior room or hall. 1 long blast of the siren will signal the all clear. The fire department also utilizes the sirens when there is a fire or meeting. 2 blasts of the siren is a call for firemen to assemble at the station.

The monthly report: 1 regular meeting, 1 training class, 63 hours activities, 1 fire call in the county 1 mile south of Tennyson for a MVA with injuries, 13 1/2 man hours, 2 1/4 truck hours, 26 truck miles one way plus 3 personal vehicles. The firemen went to help with traffic control.

For the Winter schedule the business meeting will remain the first Monday of each month. Work night will be the 3rd Saturday at 4 pm, training classes will be announced.

The fire department needs volunteers. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer fireman can contact any fireman or call Bud Thompson at 453-4423. We also have a program for young adults. Cadets ages 16-18, with parents consent, receive Fire and Rescue training. Visitors are always welcome at the meetings and Training Classes are held at the fire station.

Sign-up period for 2005 EQIP funding to end March 18

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Texas announced that farmers and ranchers wishing to be considered for 2005 funding in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) must sign up by the close of business Friday, March 18, 2005.

EQIP was reauthorized in the 2002 Farm Bill to provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmen-

tal quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and/or management practices on eligible agricultural land.

In 2005 Texas will receive approximately \$64 million in EQIP financial assistance funds and approximately \$5.5 million in Ground and Surface Water EQIP funds.

"These funds will help farmers and ranchers improve the natural resources on private working lands in Texas," said Dr. Larry Butler, Texas NRCS State Conservationist. "They will be used to solve locally identified resource problems in each county and will also fund special statewide concerns recommended by the Texas State Technical Committee such as water quantity, water and air quality, wildlife habitat, and treatment of invasive species. This program offers cost share and incentives payments to producers applying approved conservation measures."

Butler explained, "Using national and state EQIP priorities, counties working through a Local Work Group chaired by the local Soil and Water Conservation District recommended local resource concerns to be addressed, eligible practices, and cost-share rates and/or incentive payments. This group also recommended cost-share rates for beginning farmers. In 2005, producers who meet the criteria as a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher can receive 90 percent cost share for eligible practices. The group also recommended an application ranking process to prioritize applications for funding. We have reviewed and concurred in all of their recommendations."

Beginning immediately after March 18, 2005, all applications will be ranked and those selected for funding will be approved. A conser-

vation planner will develop a contract and conservation plan for each contract that is approved. Producers who have been awarded contracts can then begin implementing the approved conservation practices this year. Local NRCS field offices have complete details for their county.

**Additional information and access to ranking criteria, practices, and cost share rates for EQIP can be found at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/
Backyard bird count slated Feb. 18-21**

Participation is easy and every bird enthusiast in North America is encouraged to count the birds.

All you need is basic knowledge of bird identification and access to the Internet at home, a friend's house, local library, school, or anywhere you can get access to the Web. Website is <http://www.birdsource.org/gb/bc/index.html>.

Here's what you do:
 *Count the birds in your backyard, local park, or other natural area on one or all four count days. You can count in as many different locations as you wish, just make sure to keep separate records and fill out a checklist for each area.

*Watch the birds for at least 15 minutes on each day that you participate. Recommended for watching is for a half-hour or more, so that you'll have a good sense of what birds are in your area.

*How to count: Your data will be used by scientists to analyze bird populations, so it is very important that everyone count their birds in exactly the same way. On the day(s) that you count, watch your bird feeders or take a short walk (less than 1 mile) in your neighborhood or park.

For each kind (species) of bird that you see, keep track of the highest number of

individuals that you observe at any one time. Use a "tally sheet" to help keep track of your counts. Your tally sheet should look something like the following:

- *House Finch - 3,5,3,1
- *High count = 5
- *Blue Jay - 1,3,6,2
- *High count = 6

Be careful not to count the same bird over and over! Don't add another Blue Jay to your tally every time you see a Blue Jay at the feeder. You could be seeing the same individual again and again. If you record only the highest number of individual birds that you see in view at one time, you're sure to never count the same bird more than once!

*At the end of the day go to "Submit your bird checklist" on our GBBC web site. Fill out the questions about your location, local habitat, and count duration. Then enter your high counts for each species sighted on that day and location. You can submit one bird checklist for each day that you count or for each new area that you count in. For example:

*If you count on four days at one location, you'd submit four different checklists.

*If you count on four days at two different locations each day, submit eight checklists. And so on.

*Problems getting access to the Internet? Many libraries, schools, bird clubs, and other community-based groups will be helping, too. If organizations in your area are not already planning to help those without Internet access, you can help get something started!

*Finally, after you've submitted you data, explore the web site. Check the results section to see other reports from your community, and what data come in from other areas. Have a look through the other pages, and find out other ways you can help birds. Enjoy!

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Use your feet ... and your heart.
 Form a team and join the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Join your community in an overnight fight against cancer! The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life will be held June 17, 2005, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. at the Bronte Track Field.

Relay teams will take turns walking, running, or even strolling around the track. The teams consist of individuals representing corporations, churches, clubs, organizations and families. During the Relay For Life, team members may enjoy games, food, music, and camaraderie while camping out on the surrounding grounds. If you are a CANCER SURVIVOR, we want you to join us in the Survivor's Victory Lap. Please call Julie Springer @ 325/473-7018.

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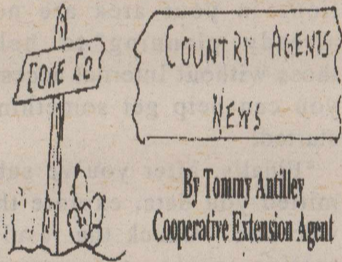
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**Bronte Academic
UIL update**

On January 22, 29 students travelled to the Heart of Texas Speech Tournament in Brownwood to spend the day practicing for the upcoming UIL District competition. The District meet will be held in Santa Anna on April 1. This year we have a CX Debate Team composed of Alonzo Martinez and Jonathan Marrs, who have already competed in District CX Debate in Water Valley on Monday, February 7. Also, Lora Martinez is entered in the LD Debate.

The Sonora UIL meet was held February 4. The Debate students performed well, advancing several rounds. Lora Martinez won all of her rounds on Friday and went back to Sonora for the finals on Saturday. She won five rounds total and placed 2nd in LD debate. All 22 students worked on improving their scores. Megan Gibbs placed 6th in Computer Applications. Justin Taylor placed 7th in Calculator.

Saturday, February 5, Bronte had 32 students competing in the Wylie Valentine Classic. The students all competed well, raising their individual scores, but did not place in the top 6 of their events. In all three meets, the BHS students competed with 1A through 5A classifications schools. The BHS UIL students are working toward doing their best at the District contest in April.



Texas Turf Tips

**Scalping Your Lawn •
Should You Do It?**

There are usually pros and cons to every decision you make in life - even scalping your lawn. Scalping is defined as the removal of an excessive quantity of leaf tissue at any one mowing, resulting in a stubby brown appearance due to exposed stems, stolons, crowns, dead leaves and even bare soil. While scalping is not normally recommended for the warm season turfgrasses during the active growing season or prior to winter dormancy, it can be a beneficial cultural practice in late winter to early spring. Benefits from early season scalping prior to green-up include: earlier spring green-up, control of some winter annual broadleaf weeds, and removal of some debris that could contribute to thatch accumulation. Scalping during the growing season will cause undue stress or potential injury to the turfgrass plants.

A more appropriate time to scalp warm season grass lawns is just prior to spring green-up. Drop your mower

cutting height down to -1 inch and begin mowing. It is an excellent practice to remove old, dead plant material and to expose the soil to sunlight to warm the soil for quicker lawn green-up. Scalping too early may injure the turfgrass by exposing plant parts such as stolons and crowns to frost or extremely low temperatures. If delayed until the grass is actively growing, scalping will result in turf stress and shock the grass plant to the point that it slows growth until it can recover. Take caution to not overdo scalping on lawns with heavy thatch - especially on St. Augustine grass. If the active stolons (runners) are located in the upper portion of the thatch, scalping may cause a tremendous amount of damage to these vital plant parts and result in turf injury and even death.

Scalping creates a good bit of debris so it will be necessary to haul off all the old, dead plant material that is removed during the scalping process. However, do not bag this material and send it to the landfill. Landfills are not appropriate sites for disposing of yard waste. Instead, use the debris in your own compost pile or send it to a city or commercially owned compost site.

Scalping is a great cultural practice to help produce a strong, healthier stand of turfgrass when done correctly. However, use caution when scalping your lawn so as not to cause any injury or stress to the lawn.

It's time to

Sharpen Mower Blades!

Spring green-up will be here before you know it, so it's time to drag the old lawnmower out of the garage and get it ready for your lawn. One practice that is sometimes ignored but extremely important is sharpening your mower blades.

Dull blades will not only cause your lawn to look unattractive but can also place undue stress on your lawn.



Men's Breakfast! Rick Styles (from left), Jerry Parker, and Terry Queen fill their plates at the Men and Boys Breakfast at Bronte's First Baptist Church last Sunday morning. They were among the 27 men attending the monthly event. In addition to the great food, the men enjoyed a time of fellowship, prayer, and sharing and discussion of current events in the community.

Leaf tips become splintered and ragged which leaves a straw colored appearance. These jagged-edged leaf tips are entry points for small insects and disease pathogens which can cause damage to your turf. So, pull the blades off the mower each month or so and give them a good sharpening. If they are in terrible shape, replace them - you'll be impressed with the results! If this is something that you do not feel comfortable doing yourself, then take your mower blades to a repair shop and have a professional do it for you. Your lawn will show its appreciation by an improved appearance. It will be healthier too!

Spreader and Sprayer Calibration!

Do you apply fertilizers, compost, or pesticides to your lawn? If so, having your equipment clean, calibrated and 'ready to go' is drawing near. Applications of these products normally occur during the growing season, so it is important and timely to have your equip-

ment calibrated prior to the first use of the season.

Calibration of spreaders and sprayers is a relatively simple task. It doesn't take a lot of time but is essential in order to apply products in measured amounts and in an environmentally safe manner. So take the time to calibrate your equipment - it's good for your lawn and our environment! More detailed information on calibrating spreaders and sprayer may be found on the Aggie-Turf web site under 'Turf Tips'.

Turfgrass Mathematics!

Have you ever felt uncomfortable about applying products such as fertilizer, compost, or pesticides to your lawn? Are you scared of all the calculations and formulas?

Don't worry! It's not so bad! You just need to take your time, apply the correct

formulas, and get help if you run into trouble. Can you make mistakes? Absolutely!! It is extremely important to double check your work so that you do not apply products to your lawn in an inappropriate manner and unsafe amounts. Many lawns have been damaged due to improper applications of lawn products. Remember, read the labels, do your math, and check your calculations. Applying lawn products in measured amounts is the right thing to do to keep your lawn healthy and our environment clean!

For more information on mowing and sharpening your blades; calibrating spreaders and sprayers; and "Turfgrass Mathematics" and formulas to use for proper application, go to the Aggie-Turf web site at <http://aggie-turf.tamu.edu> and click on "Turf Tips".

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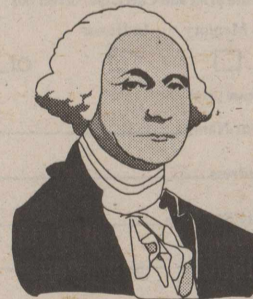
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**HOLIDAY
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