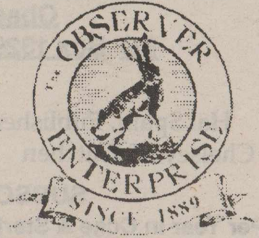


THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke & Sterling Counties

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Vol. 117, No. 45

Friday, June 3, 2005

Red Hat Society meeting slated

The Red Hat Mamas (Red Hat Society) will meet at 11 am Tuesday, June 7, at the Fort Chadbourne Ranch on Hwy 277. Mrs. Nell Richards is graciously opening her home to the group, planning tours of the ranch for those interested. Bring a sack lunch, wear casual clothing and comfortable walking shoes, and join this group where there is fun after fifty (and before) for women of all walks of life. Drinks will be provided.

RL Pool posts new number

The Robert Lee Swimming Pool has given notice that the telephone number at the pool has changed. The new number is 450-5204.

RL/Silver Lions Club selling light bulbs

The Robert Lee-Silver Lions Club will be selling light bulbs on June 7 beginning at 5 pm. If you would like to make sure they come by your home, call a Lion member, or 453-2380 and we will make a point to stop by with the bulbs. You may also

pick up your bulbs at Rock Solid Communications at 803 Austin Street, Robert Lee.

Gospel singing Sunday

The regular monthly community gospel singing will be held Sunday, June 5, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Central Baptist Church in Bronte. Everyone in the area is invited to come and enjoy this fellowship time together.

Coke County dance slated

The monthly dance for Coke County will be held from 7:30-10:30 pm Tuesday, June 7, at the Robert Lee Rec Hall. Come and enjoy.

Bronte Spring Clean-Up slated

The annual Spring Clean-Up has been set for the City of Bronte. Clean-up days have been set for Monday, June 6, and Thursday, June 9.

There will be no trash collection done on Saturday.

Residents can place their items curbside on their regular trash day. Items must be out by 7:00 am. Trucks will run as needed to ensure that all the items are picked up.

Residents with normal



Winter Wonderland?! A casual glance at this black and white photo would have you convinced it was February and snowing in Coke County. The real answer is June at Seven Mile Hill in Coke County. The hailstones were still in the barrow ditch at 10 am Wednesday morning, following Tuesday night's storm. Since just before the Memorial Day weekend, Coke County has been blessed with plenty of the wet stuff, and yes, some of the hard stuff along with it.

Monday trash collection will be serviced June 6. Residents with normal Thursday trash collection will be serviced on June 9.

The following items will not

be picked up: batteries, tires, chemicals, wet paint cans, appliances containing freon or puron.

Tree limbs can be picked up if

they are bundled in 4-5 ft. lengths.

Residents can call the City Hall (473-3501) if they have any questions on the Clean-Up.

Coke Comment

Consolidation is not a four letter word

by Hal Spain, Publisher
[Editor's Note: Eula Vern, this column's for you. Mrs. (Eula Vern) Lee, grand lady of Bronte, is always wanting more and longer stories to read in the paper. As I am afraid this is going to get lengthy before I get through, this one's for you.]

Over the past several years, it's been pretty easy to notice the growing need for us to consolidate our school system in Coke County. If you don't agree with that statement, I will attempt to persuade you further on in this editorial. Just for discussion's sake, let's say we all agree with that statement. The problem is that when you discuss this issue with someone, it's like the big elephant in the room. Everyone knows it's there, but nobody wants to talk

about it. The devil is in the details, and I think that is the main hindrance to beginning the discussion.

Recently I had the good fortune to be invited to the Coke County Retired Teachers luncheon at Bronte. I was there to accept an award for the paper, and have a plate full of homemade meats and veggies for lunch plus a slice of Sug Lawhon's coconut pie, which was scrumptious. I had planned to discuss this with them at the meeting, but I chickened out, and I'm kind'a glad I did, because they may need some more time to "digest" just what it is I want them to do.

Let's preface that discussion by observing the obvious, 1). that this group (the retired teachers) represents all of Coke County, which is a critical factor in this discussion; and 2). that they are the most respected group of

educators in this county. Now if you want to disagree with any of that, you'll have to take it up with my friend Guido, who's out in the parking lot waiting to beat some sense into you.

Assuming that we all agree on that, let's ask ourselves a question. If we can talk this group into providing the leadership for getting the ball rolling on this consolidation topic, why shouldn't we utilize them? I would like to "challenge" this group to form a committee to lead the effort in discussing the feasibility of school consolidation. Said committee should be composed of school board members, administrative personnel, educators, businesspeople, parents, and others from throughout the county.

One issue we need to clarify. If this process proceeds, the decision-makers will be the board members or the

voters in each district. The retired teachers group will only be responsible for initiating the discussion and hopefully moving the process along.

Earlier in the article I said something about discussing the need for consolidation; so we'd better address that next. Robert Lee's situation is perhaps the easiest to assess. Declining ADA (average daily attendance), which is the basis for how the money is passed out, along with some other issues concerning spending have put Robert Lee in a near-critical state of existence. This situation is not unique to Robert Lee, Bronte, or Coke County. Most all communities west of I-35 have suffered a population decline, mainly due to agricultural and petroleum-related job losses. We are lucky in Coke County to have the hunting and fishing resources to help prop up our economy. Some communities have truly been devastated by this decline.

Bronte is in a little different situation with the added

income from the Coke County Juvenile Justice facility (their ADA counts toward Bronte's total). However, conditions at Bronte may not be as rosy as they might seem on the surface. What the legislature giveth, they can also taketh away; so these funds, plus the population levels at CCJJC, are not a guarantee, by any means. What is more important to the county is this: if Robert Lee decides they have to do something in the immediate future, and Bronte is not ready, Robert Lee may have to consolidate with some other school district like Water Valley or even Sterling City. If that should happen, it might be very difficult to consolidate within the county when that time should come.

One of the worst outcomes of this scenario is that Coke County kids might not be going to school in Coke County, and that is unacceptable to everyone involved.

The most beneficial aspect of consolidation is the fact

Continued on Page 8

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Obituaries

White

Former Robert Lee resident Wavoline White was laid to rest Wednesday June 1, 2005, with a grave side service, at the Robert Lee Cemetery.

She was born on January 22, 1920, in Badcow, Arkansas. She married Freddie C. White on March 12, 1939. She lived in Robert Lee from 1966 to 1992 when she moved to Baytown, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Freddie White; son, Fred White; and grandsons, Craig and Mike Harmon.

She is survived by her sister Geneva Hairston and husband, Tilman, of Baytown, Texas; daughter Mary Harmon and husband, Joe, of Yukon, Oklahoma; son Bobby White and wife, Connie, of Richardson; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

45-1tp

Walker

Funeral services for Tommie Walker, 71, of Longworth were held at 2:30 pm Wednesday, June 1, 2005, at the McCoy Chapel of Memories in Sweetwater with Lonnie Bloodworth and Tommy Davis officiating. Burial followed at McKenzieville Cemetery in Silver at 4:30 pm. Services were under the direction of McCoy Funeral Home in Sweetwater.

He is survived by his wife, Vonzell Walker of Longworth; three sons and daughters-in-law, Keith and Wanda Walker of Longworth, Jamie and Jeanie Walker of Palo Pinto, Mike and Shirley Walker of Silver, and 5 grandchildren.

Sanco Homecoming clean-up set

June 4 and 11 have been designated as the days to get everything in order for the Sanco Homecoming the 12th.

There is always lots of mowing, raking, & cleaning to be done. Come and help if you can. Your help will be appreciated.

Insurance carriers provide tips for filing claims

With the recent hail damage experienced throughout the county, Glenn-Bivins Insurance and other local carriers have provided the following information for residents filing claims.

File your insurance claims as soon as possible following the damage. Some insurance carriers require policy holders to file claims within a thirty-day period.

Don't do business with a roofer that you don't know. Some disreputable firms from out of the area will seek out a location which has experienced damage, and prey on locals in need of repairs. In some cases these contractors are not licensed, and their work is not guaranteed. There is also the problem of locating them again following completion of the work. It is always a good idea to use a reputable, local, experienced roofer when you need repairs.

If you have any questions regarding repairs or recommendations concerning a reputable roofing firm, contact your local insurance provider.

Heroes Quest VBS set for June 27-30

Vacation Bible School will be held at the 1st United Methodist Church in Robert Lee, June 27-June 30, from 6:00-8:30 pm, for ages 4 and older.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to assist, please contact the church office at 453-2417.

RL Baptist VBS date set

Club VBS Beach Blast has been scheduled for the mornings of July 11-15. Further details will be announced at a later date.

For more information, contact Robert Lee Baptist Church at 453-2724.

VBS in Bronte set

Pre-K through 6th grade kids can be a part of the adventure at the Circle G Ranch. Vacation Bible School at First United Methodist Church in Bronte, will be held Sunday, June 5, through Wednesday, June 8, from 6 pm until 8 pm.

Each adventure is filled with a powerful Bible story and fun crafts, games, music and more. Lasso some fun with your friends at the Circle G Ranch! For information call the church office at 473-3281.

RL swimming lessons

The Robert Lee lifeguards will be having swimming lessons June 6-10 from 10:00 am-11:00 am. Discounts are available for more than one in the family taking lessons.

Swimmers get in free at the pool for the week of lessons. For more info call 453-2714.

**RL Street
Affair update**

The Robert Lee Street Affair committees met Thursday, May 26, in the Coke County Library. Outdoor electrical plug ins, a \$50 award to any group who would sign up to clean up after the occasion, and an open mike session in the late afternoon for the listening visitors were discussed. Notices have been sent to last year's booth holders and everyone is encouraged to spread the word about the opportunity the Street Affair offers to craftsmen and craftswomen.

The next meeting will be held at 5:00 pm in the Coke County Library on Thursday, June 23.

**WCCHD minutes of
May 24 meeting**

The West Coke County Hospital District Board of Directors met Tuesday, May 24 at the Robert Lee Care Center.

Rick Sanchez, presiding officer, called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

The following members were present: Gayland Hurst, Jim Naico, Rick Sanchez, Mary Bessent, and Dessie Kendall.

Rick Sanchez announced that a quorum was present.

Gayland Hurst nominated the following slate of officers: President-Dessie Kendall, Vice-President-Rick Sanchez, Secretary/Treasurer-Mary Bessent. Jim Naico seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The minutes for the May 18th meeting were approved as presented.

Reports from the Pharmacy Consultant, Social Worker and Dietary Consultant were reviewed.

The financial reports were reviewed and discussed.

Mary Bessent moved that the loan at the Robert Lee State Bank be paid. The motion was seconded by Gayland Hurst and passed. Mary Bessent and Dessie Kendall will go to the Robert Lee State Bank to renew a

certificate of deposit and to pay the existing loan.

Mary Bessent requested a report be given at the next meeting on the tax valuation for the West Coke County Hospital District for the current year. She also asked for an accounting of monies already received by the Hospital District taxes this year.

Jim Naico moved that the financial reports be approved. Rick Sanchez seconded, motion carried.

The Administrator, Terri Tedford reported on the following:

The Spring Fling held in San Angelo was a success.

An organizational chart was given to the board members and discussed.

An unemployment claim for a former employee was reviewed and explained by the administrator.

A report on the destruction of medications was given by Terri Tedford.

The Disaster Plan Manual is being rewritten by the administrator.

The administrator will be attending a seminar the 31st and will be out of the facility until June 3rd.

Terri will meet with the Concho Valley COG to discuss their transportation program.

The Robert Lee Care Center Auxiliary donated a TV and DVD player to the Alzheimer's Unit.

There are other improvements in the planning stage for the new Alzheimer's unit.

Rick Sanchez moved that the administrator be given a spending limit of \$1,500.00 per item without having to have board approval. The motion was seconded by Mary Bessent. The motion passed with no opposition.

A Grand Opening Ceremony for the Alzheimer's Unit will be held in the near future. The administrator reported that advertising for the new unit will be started.

Jim Naico moved that several bids be taken for the software upgrade needed for the computer program used in the Care Center. Rick Sanchez seconded, motion carried.

The President, Dessie Kendall announced that following a break the board would go into an executive session to discuss employee matters in accordance with Section 551.074 of the Open Meetings Act.

The board reconvened in open session at 8:31 pm.

Rick Sanchez moved that the following positions be filled either by new employees, advancing existing employees or moving part-time employees to full time.

- 1 Assistant Director of Nurses (ADON) for the Alzheimer's Unit
- 1 full time LVN
- 1 part-time LVN
- 1 Medication Aide
- 1 part-time dishwasher/janitor
- 2 full time Certified Nursing Assistants

Gayland Hurst seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the board will be Tuesday, June 21, 2005, 5:00 pm in the board room at the Robert Lee Care Center. All meetings of the West Coke County Hospital Board of Directors are open to the public.

Gayland Hurst moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mary Bessent seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

**Area Churches
Invite You to Worship**

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

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

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) 473-2040
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

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Couple to celebrate 50th wedding anniversary

Joe and Donna Ash of Robert Lee will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 3, 2005. Joe was the youngest son of Joe H. and V'olah Ash of the Marie community east of Bronte and attended Bronte High School. He grew up on the family farm that his grandfather, James P. Ash, purchased in 1902, after moving most of his family from Georgia. Donna was the oldest of three daughters of Jahew and Juanice Jameson. She grew up on the family ranch north of Silver near the Coke and Mitchell County line, and graduated from Colorado High School in Colorado City.

Both Joe and Donna are proud graduates from Texas Tech University where they first met through a mutual acquaintance. Joe received a degree in Animal Husbandry, and Donna graduated with a degree in Home Economics. The marriage ceremony was held at the home of Jahew and Juanice in Silver, Texas, just after Joe completed his undergraduate degree in the Spring of 1955. Joe was promptly drafted into the United States Army on July 5, just days after the wedding, where he completed basic training in Fort Knox, Kentucky, and then was assigned to the Medical Corp where he spent time in Germany.

After returning to civilian life, Joe and Donna moved to Weatherford, Texas, and was employed by Payless Feed in the sales force. Joe then worked for Lone Star Gas Company as a land man and moved to Iowa Park, Texas, and then to Jacksboro, Texas, where he and Donna lived until moving back to Coke County in 1972. They have made their home in Robert Lee for the past twenty-three years.

Joe and Donna have three children, Russell Ash of Big Lake, Cynthia Bessent of Baird, and Susan Owens of



Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ash

Highland. They have had eight grandchildren, Jaelyn Ash Wolf, Morgan Ash, Jameson Ash, Cody Bill Bessent (deceased), B. J. Bessent, Katie Bessent, Elizabeth Owens, and Kelci Owens, and two great grandchildren, Cody Pierce Bessent, and Cali Parker Bessent.

Calling all Coke County cancer survivors

The Coke County Relay for Life will be starting Friday evening, June 17, at 7 pm at the Bronte Track Field. The first lap that will be walked is called the survivor's lap. This is a very special invitation for any cancer survivor from Coke County or elsewhere to come and walk this special lap. Survivors will have a chance to register and receive a free survivor t-shirt upon arrival.

This is the important infor-

mation that you need to know. No matter what kind of cancer you have been diagnosed with, you are a survivor. There is no cancer that is less scary or dangerous. When you read this please call Julie Springer 473-3105, 473-7018 and let her know your name and t-shirt size so correct t-shirts will be ordered.

Remember this is for all survivors. If you need help to walk around the track, we will provide that help for you. This is a very joyous occasion and you will be cheered as you make that journey around the track.

66th annual Harmon-Sparks Reunion set

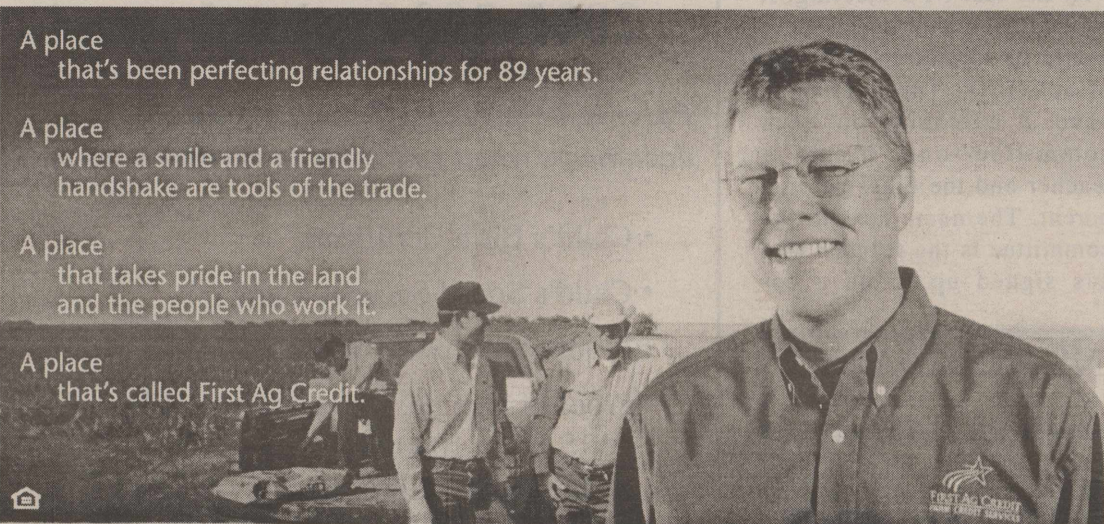
The 66th Annual Harmon-Sparks Reunion will be held Saturday, June 4, 2005, at the large Rec Hall in Robert Lee. Lunch will be served at 12:30 and supper at 6:30 pm.

A place that's been perfecting relationships for 89 years.

A place where a smile and a friendly handshake are tools of the trade.

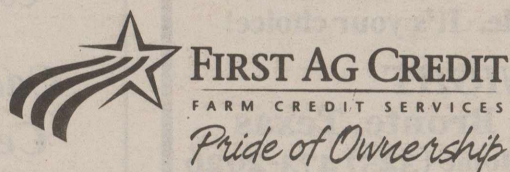
A place that takes pride in the land and the people who work it.

A place that's called First Ag Credit.



A place that values pride.

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San Angelo Credit Office | #2 Colonial Plaza | 325.949.8114 | agmoney.com

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Family Pack Preferred Trim Boneless Beef
Bottom Round Steak
Lb. **\$1.79**

Small Package \$1.99 per pound

New Crop California

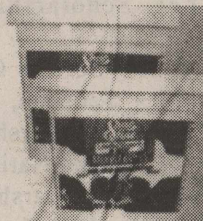
Sweet Cherries
Lb. **\$1.99**

Including: Green Beans, Golden Corn or Mixed Vegetables



Shurfine Vegetables
3 ^{14.5 -} _{15.5} / \$1
oz.cans

Assorted Flavors



Shurfine Yogurt
4 ^{6 oz.} / \$1
ctn.

Regular, Light or Select

Budweiser Beer



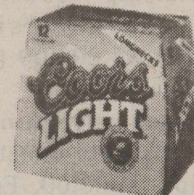
12 pk 12 oz longneck bottles

\$8.49

Natural Light 30 pack **\$16.39**

Regular or Light

Coors Beer



12 pk 12 oz longneck bottles

\$8.49

Keystone Light 30 pack **\$16.39**

All Rims



Blue Bell Ice Cream
2 ^{1/2} Gal. / \$7



Successful Turkey Hunt! Sloan Boren (left) and Joe Bob Alexander each got their first turkey gobbler May 7, 2005, the day before the spring turkey season ended. The two cousins took aim, counted to three, and brought down the gobblers at the same time. Sloan is the son of John Boren of Snyder and Joe Bob is the son of Kathy Alexander of Austin. The two boys are grandsons of Jamie Boren of Robert Lee.

BHS scholarships awarded at graduation

Ashleigh Kelly - State of Texas Honor Graduate Certificate - tuition for a year, Masonic/Fletcher Family Scholarship - \$250.00, The Geo Group, Inc. CCJJC - \$500.00, Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo FCCLA Scholarship - \$12,000.00 (4 years)

Callie Johnson - Texas State Technical College Grant, \$4,500.00

Cory Cooper - Bronte Chamber of Commerce - \$150.00, Bronte ISD Faculty & Staff Scholarship - \$500.00

Monica DeLaGarza - Bronte High School Student Council Scholarship - \$250.00, First National Bank Scholarship - \$750.00, Lorenzo DeLaGarza Memorial Scholarship - \$250.00

Blaine Dyess - Larry's Automotive, Larry & Gwen Dyess - \$500.00, East Coke County Ambulance Service - \$500.00, Bronte ISD Faculty & Staff Scholarship - \$500.00

Sherman Griffin - Masonic/Fletcher Family Scholarship - \$250.00

Romana Hoover - Masonic/Fletcher Family Scholarship - \$250.00, Lion's Club Scholarship - \$500.00, McMurry University Scholarship - \$5,000.00 (renewable 4 years)

Garrett Jackson - Bronte High School Sports Boosters Scholarship - \$300.00, First National Bank Scholarship - \$250.00, Ivey Motor Ford Trucks/Built Ford Tough FFA Scholarship - \$1,000.00

Jasmine Kresta - Bronte High School Student Council Scholarship - \$250.00, Bronte ISD Faculty & Staff Scholarship - \$250.00

Ryan Martinez - Bronte High School Sports Boosters Scholarship - \$300.00, The GeoGroup, Inc. Coke Co.

Juvenile Justice Ctr. - \$500.00, James Graves Memorial Scholarship - \$250.00

Ashley McCutchen - Coke County Roping Club Scholarship - \$300.00, East Coke County Ambulance Service Scholarship - \$500.00, Sorosis Club Scholarship - \$200.00, Bronte ISD Faculty & Staff Scholarship - \$250.00

Desiree Mirelez - The Charles Family Scholarship - \$150.00, Bronte High School Student Council Scholarship - \$250.00, Larry's Automotive, Larry & Gwen Dyess Scholarship - \$500.00

Cody Moore - Pat & Martin Lee Scholarship - \$500.00

Salena Soto - Sorosis Club Scholarship - \$200.00, The Charles Family Scholarship - \$150.00, C.J. Macon National Honor Society Scholarship - \$400.00, Bronte ISD Faculty & Staff Scholarship - \$250.00

Stephen Tomes - Eastern Star Scholarship - \$250.00, Dr. Robert & Jean Ann LeGrand Scholarship - \$1,000.00, Bronte ISD Faculty & Staff Scholarship - \$250.00

Ashleigh Kelly & Justin Frazee - C.J. Macon Scholarship Foundation recipients - \$1,500.00 each

Local funds in scholarships - \$14,400.00

Outside funds in scholarships - \$23,500.00
Grand total - \$37,900.00

Weser named to Dean's list

Stephanie Weser has been named to the Dean's list at Sam Houston State University for Spring 2005.

The Dean's list consists of all full-time students having Grade point averages of 3.5 and above.

Co-ed softball tournament to benefit RL little league

A co-ed softball tournament will be held in Robert Lee on June 18th to benefit Robert Lee Little League baseball.

First 8 teams with double elimination. There will be a 15 player/team limit. 1st & 2nd place teams will receive T-shirts. For donation per player, contact Adam Minjarez 450-0428 or Scotty Jackson 453-4420.

Robert Lee PTO News

At the last PTO meeting, it was decided that committees would be formed to take care of activities. The goal is to have 2 co-chairs on each committee--one being a teacher and the other being a parent. The name next to the committee is the teacher who has signed up to be a co-

chairman.

Please remember that PTO is for all students Pre-K through 12th grade. Please look at the following committees and their short description and let the PTO know if you are interested in being a co-chair for one of the committees, if you would like to help that committee, or if you have any questions. Contact Laura Bell (453-4565) or Katie Drennan (453-2343).

The committees and their co-chairs include: Book Fair (Mrs. Roberts)-set up, organize, and run book fair; Volunteers (Mrs. Wallace)-recruit parents to help with school activities, make copies, help in the cafeteria, and

other functions during the school day; Teacher Appreciation (Ms. Crain)-organize and recruit volunteers to help with event; Open House/Meet the Teacher (Mrs. Gartman)-organize and recruit volunteers to help with the event; and Fall Festival (Mrs. Drennan)-organize event, recruit booths, set up on day of event.

Family Day set at SA Museum of Fine Arts

It's Family Day time at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts! On Saturday, June 4, from 10 am to 2 pm there will be hands-on art activities in the Education Studio at the art museum. This community program and the museum will be completely free and open to the public throughout the day. This will be a great opportunity to enjoy the incredible clay exhibitions on display at the art museum.

On June 4, bring your whole family to enjoy a themed Family Day based on the wonderful artwork of Georgia O'Keefe. Georgia is an American master of art. She will be one of the many artists featured in the Visions of America show at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts July through September. Some of O'Keefe's activities include drawing still lifes, watercolor activity, sidewalk chalk murals, tissue paper paintings and lot and lots more.

Also on June 4th from 10 am - 2 pm, Summer for Kids registration will be held in the meeting room at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. So bring your kids to the art museum this summer and let them meet the masters by engaging in hands-on art activities! Contact Candice Granger at 653 3333 for cost of registration.


Your Local Head Start still has vacancies for the 2005-2006 school year!

Parents, be sure and bring the following documents when you come to register your child:

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Child's Social Security Card
- Proof of insurance or Medicaid
- Proof of income, which may include:
 - IRS Form 1040/W2
 - Child Support information
 - Proof of TANF/SSI/Food Stamps
 - Paycheck stubs for the prior 12 months
- Copy of child's last IEP or IFSP
- Copy of child's shot records

Call the Robert Lee Head Start Center for more information!
(325) 453-2536

GLENN-BIVINS INSURANCE

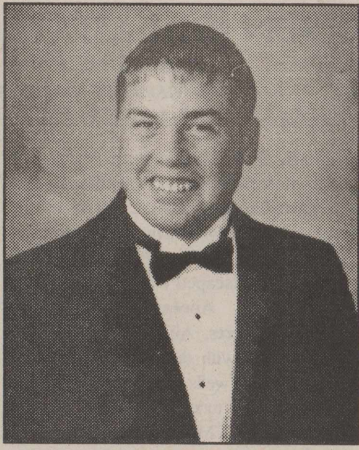
 See us for your auto insurance.

123 W. Main Bronte 473-6791

Paul's Body Shop

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PAUL KNIGHT
123 N. State Bronte, Texas
Office (325) 473-2425 • Home (325) 473-2026
Cell (325) 450-2281



Bridges Awarded Scholarship! Cody Scott Bridges, son of Glenn and Loretta Bridges of Robert Lee, received the 2005 Robert Lee Eastern Star Chapter No. 187 \$400 scholarship. Jackie Walker, Associate Matron of the chapter, presented the scholarship to Cody at the RLHS Awards program May 27, 2005.

Long awarded \$1000 Ivey Ford scholarship

Colton Long, a 2005 graduate of Sterling City, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by Ivey Motor Company Inc., and Ford Motor Company. Long's parents are Richard and Jeffri Long of Sterling City. Colton plans to study Agricultural Finance at Butler County Community College in Kansas.

The scholarship is awarded by Ford Division, Ford Motor Company Fund and the Ford Dealers. Eligible recipients must be FFA members who are either high school seniors planning on attending the fall of 2005 or current collegiate students. The Built Ford Trucks/FFA Scholarship Program recently celebrated its eighth full year.

583 scholarships are being awarded on behalf of individual participating Ford Dealers. Additionally, five \$1,000 national scholarships are being awarded on behalf of Ford Division. The Built Ford Tough Trucks/FFA Scholarship Program is designed to recognize FFA members' talents and accomplishments while encouraging their past and future academic achievements. Built Ford Tough Trucks and Ford Motor Company Fund sponsor these scholarships as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Ivey Motor Company Inc. is proud to support FFA and the Built Ford Tough Trucks/FFA Scholarship Program.

For 56 years, Ford has supported FFA, and for more than 50 years, people all over America have been putting Built Ford Tough Trucks to work. Ford knows the value of hard work, and believes that hard work should be rewarded. That's why Ford has increased the Built Ford Trucks/FFA Scholarship Fund each year since its inception. Educating aspiring young people to become the leaders of tomorrow is just another

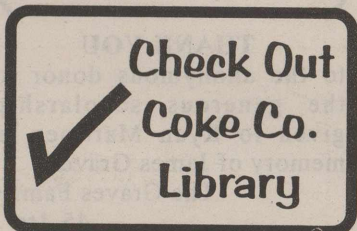
way of ensuring a successful future.

FFA is a national organization of over 471,000 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with approximately 7,200 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

Texas HS Rodeo Finals slated for June 13-18

The Texas State High School Rodeo Finals will be held in Abilene June 13-18. Coke County youth who have qualified include Jake McCabe, calf roping, Monday morning and Thursday evening, cutting, Friday morning; Cody McCabe and Lance Millican, calf roping, Tuesday morning and Wednesday morning; Lillian McMullan, barrel racing, Monday morning and Friday evening, goat tying, Monday afternoon and Thursday evening, breakaway roping, Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening, pole bending, Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evening.

Each contestant will get two go rounds to compete and then the top ten contestants from the two go rounds will compete in the short go Saturday, June 18. The top 4 contestants in each event after the short go will be able to compete at the National High School Rodeo Finals that will be held in Gillette, Wyoming, July 18-24.

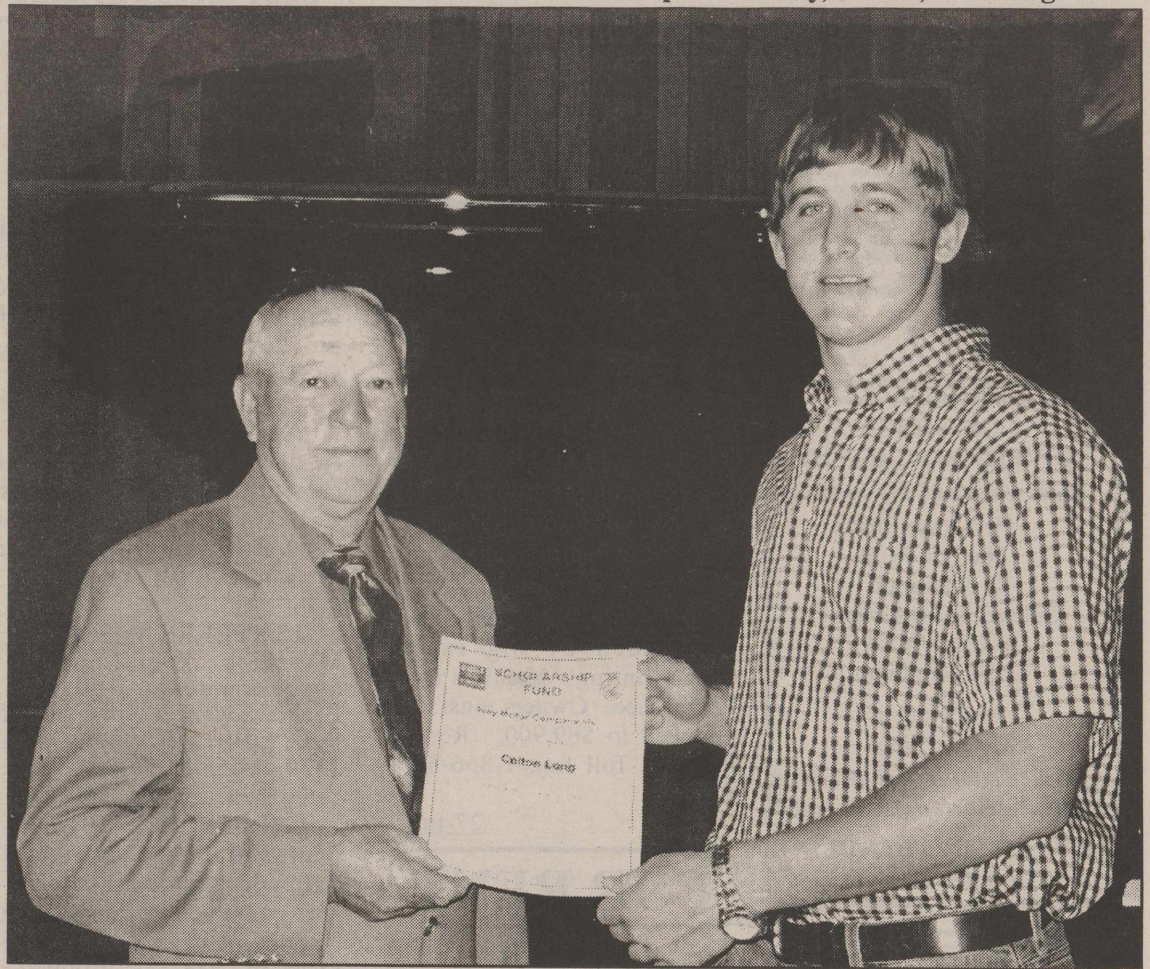


The Coke County Summer-Fun Reading event kicked off Tuesday, May 31st. Prizes, treat-of-the-week eats, and good reading will all be a part of the two-month program.

"Voluntary reading is one of the most powerful tools in language education" is a quote from a book entitled The Power of Reading by Stephen Krashen.

Reading for fun has no tests, no limits, no restrictions, no grade levels. Big books, little books, and in-between books are all available at the Coke County Library for the summer readers. Parents and adults are also welcome during the summer.

Fort Chadbourne Days held May 20 and 21 provided an opportunity to purchase several regional history books for the Coke County Library. Several authors, including Bonita Copeland



Long Receives Scholarship! Billy Wayne Roe, owner of Ivey Motor Company, Inc. of Robert Lee, presents Colton Long with a Ford Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Colton is the son of Richard and Jeffri Long of Sterling City.

and Karla Hamrick of Robert Lee, had tables at this event. Karla's book A Scout's Honor is almost off the press.

Charles Anderson, a retired teacher and author, formerly of Snyder, who has been a speaker at the Cowboy Symposium in Lubbock for the last 12 years, has written Deep Creek Merchant: The Story of William Henry "Pete" Snyder which tells the story of how "a Dutchman from Pennsylvania gave us a town and a name for that town." The book is filled with numerous pictures and documents from Scurry County and Mitchell County Museums.

Another book of Mr. Anderson's is Confederate General, William R. "Dirty Neck Bill" Scurry from whom Scurry County is named. The "Dirty Neck Bill" nickname came from Sam Houston as the two were political enemies. In the book is the story of a plan by the Confederates to invade New Mexico and then push to California to capture gold mines to benefit the Confederate Treasury.

These and other regional history books found at Fort Concho make the history of this region come alive.

Being at Fort Chadbourne Days is a historical experience that draws visitors as close to the real West as most will ever get. The expanse of the parade ground, the restored buildings, the Cavalry, the cannon's roar, the re-enactment participants, and the view toward the West which is not marred by anything man-made, are necessary to be immersed in history. Museums reflect the experience, but museums are surrounded by walls, sidewalks, fake weather and asphalt. Denying the media-hyped weather reports of the heat and getting outside any-

way reminds one of how protective shade is and how cooling a breeze can be, and how pioneers lived without modern conveniences.

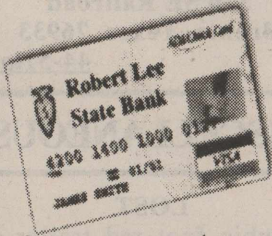
TSTC names spring graduates

The following students were graduated from the four Texas State Technical College

West Texas locations Saturday, May 21, 2005 during the annual commencement exercises at the Abilene Civic Center: Judith Hoyle, Blackwell; Christy McKee, Blackwell; Jo Blair, Robert Lee; Jamie Chesshir, Robert Lee; Debra Drennan, Robert Lee; and Michael Hill, Robert Lee.

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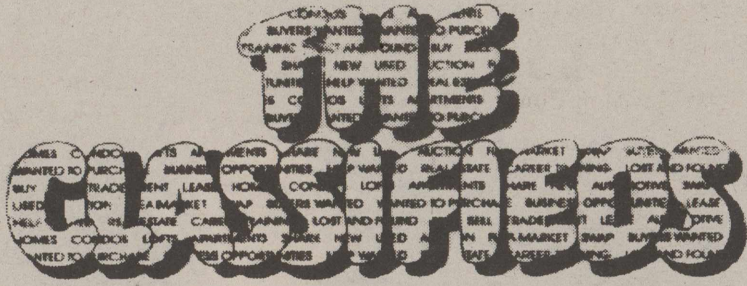


Access your checking account with the Robert Lee State Bank Visa Check Card. Use it while you're on vacation to purchase goods and services at millions of Visa merchant locations. The amount of your purchase will be automatically deducted from your Robert Lee State Bank checking account, just as if you had written a paper check! The Robert Lee State Bank Visa Check Card is an ATM card, too! Use it to get cash anywhere you see the TransFund, Pulse or Cirrus logo at thousands of ATMs worldwide.

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 Tuesdays at 2 pm

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:
 All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.
 This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



FOR SALE
COMPUTERS
 New and Used. Repairs, upgrades, internet service. Ed Martindale, 473-3004. 22-tnc
HOUSE FOR SALE
 Newly remodeled. 2 BR, 1 BA, 2 living areas. Howard Street, Bronte. \$42,500. FMI Bob Frazee, (325) 895-1512. 29-tnc
FOR SALE
 GE whisper quiet 8,000 BTU air conditioner. 4500 cfm evaporative window cooler. Like new condition, very reasonable. Call 245-3530. 44-tnwp

FOR SALE
FOR SALE
 House & 28 acres, Silver, Tx. 3 BR, 2 BA home, 4-car carport, metal roof, barn. 28 acres with trees and views, surrounded by big ranch. Great hunting. 18 miles from Robert Lee. Owners must sell. Reduced to \$89,900. Renee/Broker. Toll free 1-866-539-8511. 27-tnp

FOR RENT
FOR RENT
 3 BR, Robert Lee home for rent with option to buy. 906 Childress. Close to school. 655-9141. 45-tnc
FOR LEASE
 Large shop with office & restroom on over 350' of Hwy 277 frontage in Bronte. Call 325/439-1051. \$500/month. 27-tnc

TAKING APPLICATIONS
 for one, two & three bedroom apartments. Contact Housing Authority of Robert Lee, 710 N. Bishop, 453-2912. Equal Housing Opportunity. 29-EOW
NICE! NEW! BRICK!
 3 bedroom 2 1/2 baths
 2 bedroom 2 baths
 Now Available!
 Call: 915-473-3105 for information or 915-473-9548
Santa Fe Crossing Duplexes
 320 SE Railroad
 Bronte, Texas 76933
 44-51tp

MISCELLANEOUS
LOST
 10 cubic foot red trailer on Sanco Loop Tuesday morning, May 31. Need trailer to fill holes in graves at cemetery. Cuin Norvell, 410 10th Street, Robert Lee, 453-4614. 45-2tp

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

LOST ON 3RD STREET
 Red Chow around 2 years old. Answers to Little Boy. Call Toni's Beauty Shop 453-4317 or home 453-2983. 45-1tc
KENNETH'S CONSTRUCTION
 Local Roofer specializing in composition and metal roof replacement, repairs, and leak prevention. Call after 6 pm for estimates at 453-2339. 45-4tc

AM INTERESTED
 in maintaining rural cemeteries or cemetery plots. Call George Grim at 453-9902 after 5:00 for scheduled or as needed maintenance. 42-7tp

12 STEERS MISSING
 Maverick Area. Weight approximately 750 lbs. Branded with a Spur on left hip. Call Clifton Reed 786-2370 or 656-3501, 234-0132. 34-tnc

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

STUMP GRINDING
 You have an unsightly tree stump in your yard? We'll grind it out without leaving a hole or a mess. Richard Baker. (325) 473-2017 (home), (325) 669-7415 (cell). 20-tnc

THE "BARBER" SHOP
 Debora England, 107 W. Main, Bronte. 277-8164. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. 9 am - 5 pm. 33-tnc

TREES
 Topped, trimmed or removed, Shrubs-brush. Call George Grim 453-9902 after 5. 42-7tp

HELP WANTED
HOUSEKEEPER WANTED!
 \$8.00 per hour. 453-2726. 43-4tp

HIRING
 Assistant Director of Nursing, RN, nursing home experience. Excellent benefits and working conditions. Apply at Rannels County Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, 1800 N. Broadway, Ballinger. See Larry or fax resume to 325-365-2530. 42-tnc

HUNTING LEASE WANTED
 Local homeowner/tax payer looking for a year round lease for family minded hunters. Any size considered. 432-337-7776

Twin Mountain Riding Club
PLAYDAY
 June 11, 2005
 Bronte Arena
 Register 5 pm
 Ride at 5:30 pm
 5 events for \$10

HANDYMAN CONSTRUCTION
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 MOBILE: 325-277-7370

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Bronte
 New Listing, Beautiful Brick Home, 1726 sq. ft. with 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 car garage, formal dining room, fireplace, storage room and workshop, metal covered area for travel trailer
13 +/- Acres, 3 BR, 2 BA, C/A-C/H, good water well, good pipe pens
2 BR, 2 Bath, Wood-burning stove, dining room, 2 storage buildings, 9 pecan trees.
3 BR, 1 Bath, Hardwood floors, good storm cellar, single carport
Brick home with 2+/- ac., 3 BR, 3 BA, 2 Living Areas, Fireplace, Workshop and orchard
Robert Lee
It's Private! On 2 acres, 3 BR, 2 BA very nice brick home with fireplace, large front porch with view, barn, sheds & pens.
Close to School! 3 BR, 2 BA home with extra room, CA/CH, 2 car carport, on corner lot.
New Listing! Brick veneer Home with 3 BR, 2 Bath, over 2560 sq. ft. Large living area with fireplace. Formal dining and living area, 14' x 16' shop.
Price Reduced Brick Home with over one half acre, 3 BR, 1 1/2 Bath, Ceramic Tile floors, CA/CH, Metal roof, attached 2 car carport & Workshop.
3 BR, 2 Bath home with CA/CH, Hardwood floors, Metal roof and 2 car carport with privacy fence.
Watch the wildlife from the front porch, 2 BR, 1 BA Brick veneer home with metal carport, \$20's

3 BR, 2 BA home with screened-in porch with view, Possible Owner Finance \$20's
Cedar Cove, 2 BR, 2 Bath mobile home on large lot with many outside amenities.
Very Nice Office Building Prime location. Landscaped with additional lots.
Acres
1023 +/- Acres. All pasture and flat to rolling terrain with deep creeks and rough headers, 3 water wells and electricity, excellent deer hunting with turkey and quail
338+/- AC. FM frontage, Rolling hills with deep creek, water well & electricity. Under wildlife management.
320+/- AC. Secluded, rolling terrain with hills and mountainous views, older rock home. Two water wells, crossed fenced. Good hunting.
314+/- AC. Live Oak trees on Yellow Wolf Creek, good water well, 230 ac. cultivation, good hunting.
New Listing! 195+/- AC. FM Road frontage. Some cultivation. Beautiful live water creek. Property runs to the Colorado River. Good hunting and fishing.
125+/- AC. MAKE OFFER! All Pasture. Convenient to Robert Lee. Flat to rolling terrain. Good hunting.
80 +/- Acres. Very nice ranch style home with 3 BR, 2 BA 2 Living Areas. All Steel Horse and Cattle Pens. 3 Large Barns.

Other Listings Available

CHARTWELL COMMUNITY SERVICES
 Personal Care Attendants needed in the Robert Lee/Bronte area. Flexible hours, comparable pay rates. Call 1-800-825-4499. Ask for Judy. 44-2tc

GARAGE SALES
GARAGE SALE
 Saturday, June 4, Effie Corley's house, 606 Pecan Street in southwest Bronte. 45-1tc
CHEERLEADER GARAGE SALE
 Saturday, June 4th. 902 West 11th Street, Robert Lee. 8:00 - ? Come support your RLHS Cheerleaders. 45-1tp

CARD OF THANKS
THANK YOU
 to the anonymous donor of the generous scholarship given to Ryan Martinez in memory of James Graves.
 The Graves Family
 45-1tp

THE FAMILY OF EARL CAULDER
 Thanks each and everyone who sent cards, phone calls, flowers, food, visits and especially your prayers. Special thanks to Kim White & John Driggers, Clyde and Mary Allen, Dorthey Pruitt and Gary Shaffer. Thank you ladies from church for the delicious food. Also thanks to each and everyone who brought food to my home. Remember me in prayer on the loss of my darling son. God Bless each and everyone.
 Mother Hazel, Sons-K.C., Dwayne, & Michael, Brothers - Doyle & Wayne, Sisters -Shirley and Jean
 45-1tp

Send your news in through the internet.
Email:
 CokeCoObserver@aol.com
 Please send articles in the body of the email and photos as a jpeg attachment.



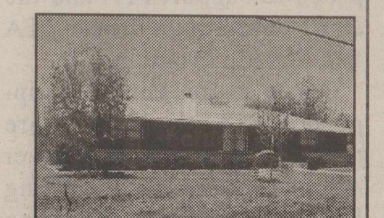
NEAR SCHOOL! CORNER LOT! 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Brick Home! Large Open Living Area! Double car Carport with privacy fence backyard! \$60's!!



NEW LISTING! This 3 Bedroom Home has Large Rooms. Bonus Room could be Game Room, 4th Bedroom or Office! Fenced Backyard, Large shade trees, Brick Patio & Workshop!



MOUNTAIN CREEK GOLF COURSE! Overland Trail Location! 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Home with Formal Living & Dining Rooms! Fantastic View of Golf Course! HURRY!



NEW LISTING! This 3 Bedroom has vaulted Ceiling and Fireplace in the oversized Living area! French doors & Large Screened-in Porch! Privacy fenced yard with storm cellar and Double Garage with room for workshop!



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CARD OF THANKS

THE FAMILY OF EARL CAULDER

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Mother Hazel, Sons-K.C., Dwayne, & Michael, Brothers - Doyle & Wayne, Sisters -Shirley and Jean
45-1tp

THE BRONTE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2005

would like to thank the following businesses, organizations and individuals for their donations and assistance with this year's Project Graduation. First National Bank of Ballinger, Abilene Sales, Citizens State Bank, Holiday Cleaners, First National Bank of Bronte, Knight & Noble, DDS., M.S. D., Inc., City Cafe, Hartman Roofing, Alisa West, J. David Vance, D.D.S., The Geo Group, Inc., Lucky Bottle Feed Store, Coke County, Rock Solid Communications, Dodge Jones Foundation, Reeders Automotive, Sterling Volkswagen, 1st Community Federal Credit Union, All American Chevrolet of San Angelo, Taylor Electric Cooperative, Inc., Shalon's, Jim Bass Ford, Dix Key Shop, Coke County Retired Teachers Association, Larry's Automotive, AEP, Town & Country Food Stores, Cadco Architects & Engineers, Inc., Mike's Wrecking, Corine & Leon McCarty, Glenn-Bivins Insurance, Pioneer Vet Clinic, Holland Jewelers, Skate Palace, Robert Lee State Bank, Halfmann's Cake Cottage, Western Communications, Target Stores, Wells Fargo, Concho Valley Electric Coop, Inc., Frito Lay, Lee Ranch, Shannon Health Systems, Zentner's Steak House, Walgreen's, Fort Chadbourne Foundation, Garland & Lana Richards, Parents of 2004-2005 Senior Class, Mayfield Paper Company, Observer Enterprise, Bartley and Jennifer Murray, Wayne and Melinda McCutchen, Morgan McCutchen, Clay Junell, Mondee Whitten, Katie McLain, and Image Productions.

45-1tp

NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of KELLY HOLLAND GREENE, were issued on May 24, 2005, in Cause No. 1663, pending in the County Court of Coke County, Texas, to PHILLIP DANIEL TREADWELL.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the

Estate addressed as follows:
Phillip Daniel Treadwell,
Executor
Estate of Kelly Holland
Greene, Deceased
c/o John A. Hay, Jr.
P.O. Box 271
San Angelo, Texas 76902-0271

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED May 24, 2005.

HAY, WITTENBURG, DAVIS, CALDWELL & BALE, L.L.P.

By: JOHN A. HAY, JR.

State Bar No. 09266500

P.O. Box 271

San Angelo, Texas 76902-0271

Tel: (325) 658-2728

Fax: (325) 655-2278

45-1tc

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 6127-18-001 for MOWING RIGHT OF WAY in STERLING County, etc will be received on June 30, 2005 until 1:00 pm and opened on June 30, 2005, at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$175,122.00.

Contract 6127-19-001 for MOWING RIGHT OF WAY in COKE County will be received on June 29, 2005 until 1:00 pm and opened on June 29, 2005 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$120,312.00.

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: 16757

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.

44-2tc

NOTICE OF BIDS FOR COUNTY DEPOSITORY

Notice is hereby given, by the County Judge of Sterling County, Texas, for Depository of Sterling County for the next four years, in accordance with Chapter 116 of the Local Government Code of Texas, at the regular June Term of Court. Said Court will receive proposals from any banking corporation, association, or individual bank in said County that may desire to be selected as the Depository of said County.

Any banking corporation, association or individual bank in said County desiring to bid, shall deliver to the County Judge on or before June 13, 2005, regular term of Commissioners' Court at which the selection of the Depository is to be made, a sealed proposal, stating the rate of interest that said banking corporation, association, or individual banker, offers to pay on the funds of the County for the Term between the dates of such bids and the next regular term of the selection of a depository. If a bid should be accepted, the bidder will enter into bond as required by law.

The Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids proposed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this 9th day of May, 2005.

County Judge,
Sterling County, Texas
43-3tc



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

I would like to congratulate Mr. Marrs, the parents and the students of Bronte Elementary. There were over 1000 students at the Fort Chadbourne Days Living History event. They came from Ballinger, Coahoma, Sweetwater, Merkel, Abilene, Wylie, Eldorado, Blackwell, Highland, Veribest and quite a few area homeschoolers. Most students were well behaved, but Bronte's students are noted with exception. The teachers were well organized and the students are to be commended for their excellent behavior. They listened, asked questions and learned on their best behavior. Encourage these kids with a pat on the back. I would take ANY of them ANYWHERE ANYTIME!

Way to go Kids!
Annie Gill

Siren warning signals for Robert Lee

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 the Sky Warn Team, are out checking the skies. They are in contact with the National Weather Service and they will set off the siren.

3 long blasts of the siren is the signal to take immediate shelter, preferably a sturdy building, storm cellar or interior room or hall. 1 long blast will signal the all clear.

The fire department utilizes the sirens, 2 blasts of the siren is a call for firemen to assemble at the station for a fire call or meeting.

FSA taking signup for LAP


The Livestock Assistance Program (LAP) for 2003 in Coke County is in progress. The payment period is August 15, 2003 through November 26, 2003.

To sign up producers must furnish the livestock counts by weight for this time period. Livestock must have been owned for 90 days before they are eligible.

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) signup is in progress for both Coke and Sterling County. This is for the 2003 or 2004 crop year. As of today there is no announced end to sign up. It is important to call ahead and make an appointment. We must have all of a producer's production records from crop insurance before we can sign you up. We have all the records on some producers and some we do not. Call ahead and find out if we have your records.

We are still taking signup for the farm program (DCP) for 2005. Producers are reminded that June 1, 2005 is the final date to be signed up. Producers may still sign up after this date but there will be a \$100.00 administrative fee charged per farm.

Because of the number of program signups going on at one time, it is VERY IMPORTANT that everyone make an appointment. Producers may come by the office or call (325) 453-2751 for additional information.



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\$25/hour (1 hour minimum)
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(325) 514-0514
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The Windmill Cafe
Home of the Big Chicken Fry
500 Commerce • Robert Lee • 453-4457

Open 7 Days a Week • 6 am to 9 pm
Lunch Specials Served Daily
Weekly Drawing for 2 Fish Buffets on Fridays
Drive-In Window is now Open!
*The food is so good,
you'll think we stole your grandma!*

BISD completes entry signs for community

Visitors, tourists and county favorites will enjoy a new introduction when they drive into Bronte from Highway 277 or from the Robert Lee Highway 158. Over the past two years the city of Bronte has been working together to create and design a slogan for the signs that will greet people when they enter town.

"Big Horns-Small Town-Great People" was the winning slogan for the city signs. High school students worked on a design for the signs. After a preliminary design was formulated, the students at CCJJC helped put the finishing touches on the signs. Lamar Advertising helped provide tips for graphic design to the students at the facility. A power-point presentation helped guide the students in finding the best representation for the billboards. The presentation and work with Lamar Advertising provided information for students at CCJJC to pursue careers in graphic arts while creating a visible benefit for the city and all visitors that enter Bronte. After making a few alterations and improving the picture, the graphic design was developed and processed. On May 18th, residents from CCJJC cleaned the area around the billboards so the signs could be hung. On May 26th, the new signs were hung by Lamar Advertising Company.

"It is amazing how many people contributed to this project," Michael Bohensky, principal at Coke County Juvenile Justice Center, commented. "When we first received the Title IV Service-Learning grant, this was a project that we wanted to help pursue. After two years of having input from just about everyone in the community, it is nice to see the finished project. It is also nice for the students at CCJJC to take a hand in something that makes them feel like positive contributors to the community. That is the meaning behind service-learning."

The students at CCJJC have contributed with many projects through the service-learning program. Service-learning students have prepared holiday baskets for the nursing home and have grown plants for the community. Projects from the program range from metal tables at the Bronte Park to little Easter bunnies for the nursing home. The students in the program also provided an open-house for the community at CCJJC on October 11th, 2004. This event provided a lunch and tour of the facility for the community. Each visitor was given a pumpkin for Halloween that had been painted by a student in service-learning.

Karena Prew, the current service-learning teacher, said "Attitudes have changed for many of the students toward people and community." One student in the service-learning program said, "The class has helped me work with people better."

Service-learning has worked at CCJJC because of the community involvement. The Chamber of Commerce for Bronte facilitated the sign-making project for the community. Annie Gill, former Chamber president, made the request for new city signs nearly two years ago and the project has been a collaboration of many people.

This summer CCJJC students will finish a three year project of writings and drawings compiled from students in the facility. The booklets will be available to the community at the end of June.

... Consolidation

(Continued from Page 1) that all Coke County kids will grow up attending the same school, and the spirit of cooperation that will occur as a result. Imagine a unified Coke County pulling together for the betterment of the county, instead of the old Bronte - Robert Lee differences we continue to experience.

The next question is how to accomplish the consolidation. I'm sure there are better ideas than mine, but somebody has to suggest something so everybody else can poke holes in it. The people I talk with say not to bus the little ones in elementary school; so leave them alone and let them attend school right where they are. Now we get into the controversial portion of the proposal. I think, with their facilities, that Bronte is the logical choice for the high school. You can argue about that point all day, but at the end of the day, the facts will remain the same. That only leaves junior high, and I think you have to give those grades (possibly 6th, 7th, & 8th grades) to Robert Lee to make it as fair and equitable as is humanly possible. I think you would be surprised at how equitable this split would be in terms of total students enrolled in each school if this kind of consolidation is possible.

If we get that far along (and I haven't been run out of town), here are some more suggestions to make the transformation less traumatic. Let's take the varsity football team as an example. Play half the home games at Bronte, and half at Robert Lee. I even have a suggestion for the team mascot, as do many others, I imagine. Call the varsity squad the Coke County Corrientes, and you won't even have to



New Bronte Sign

change the Steer and Longhorn logos up very much to match the new design.

Most important is the educational aspect of the change. This will help alleviate somewhat the problem of having seven kids in a freshman science class in Robert Lee, and eight others in the same class at Bronte.

This should result in a more efficient use of facilities and teachers.

What will make us more efficient and save money is also one of the negatives involved in the transition. Once we combine classes, we will need less teachers and administrative personnel. We will lose some teaching and administrative positions, and suffer a reduction of teaching families in the county, which will add to the loss of population, somewhat. There is always a downside when you have to make hard decisions, and this is a big one.

With the high costs of fuel, bussing and transportation costs are another negative to the new proposal. However, we bus kids from throughout the county and to ballgames and UIL competitions in all directions throughout the state already. I cannot imagine these costs going up astronomically, especially when you consider we will only be sending one bus to a particular competition instead of two, as we do now.

I know this is a very controversial subject. I also know I'm way off base with some of these suggestions, and I'm going to take some hits for some of them. As the old saying goes, what I know about the school business would fit in a thimble, and you'd still have room for your thumb. However, we need a starting place, and at least I've provided some ideas that everyone can shoot holes in.

Whatever we end up doing, we need some leadership, and we need it now. We don't have to make any long-term decisions right away. We just need to get the ball rolling, and if we get it rolling, maybe we can start it rolling downhill instead of the other direction.



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