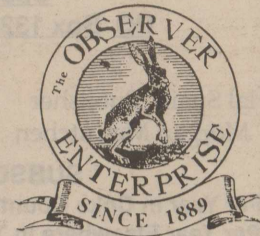


THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE



Serving Coke County

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

Vol. 113, No. 33

Friday, March 16, 2001

County 4-H members place at majors seven years straight

Members of the Coke County 4-H clubs wound up another good year participating at the major stock shows around Texas. During the Houston Livestock Show, Ashlee Millican placed her lightweight Finewood Cross lamb 1st, Lance Millican placed his lightweight Finewood lamb 19th and Morgan Hill placed her lightweight Duroc barrow 20th.

During the San Angelo Stock Show, Ashlee Millican placed her light heavyweight Finewood lamb 7th, Erin Milligan placed her light heavyweight Finewood lamb 14th, Clay Antilley placed his heavyweight Shorthorn steer 11th, Cooper Riley placed his medium weight American Cross steer 11th, Sarah Philley placed her heavy meat goat 14th and her light heavy meat goat 17th, Kasie Skinner placed her heavy meat goat 19th, Michele Sanchez placed her medium meat goat 20th, and Briana Brisbin placed her lightweight Spot barrow 13th.

Also, Clay Antilley's first place Limousin steer in San Antonio was selected as the Reserve Grand Champion Carcass of the San Antonio Stock Show Steer Carcass Contest.

These and all of the 4-H livestock project members should be commended on an

excellent year as they have placed lambs, pigs, steers and goats at every major stock show in Texas for the seventh straight year.

Lions Club slates Pancake Supper

The annual Pancake Supper, sponsored by the Robert Lee - Silver Lions Club, is set for Tuesday, March 20, at the Robert Lee School Cafeteria. The Lions will be serving pancakes and all the trimmings from 5:30 pm until 8:00 pm, with the proceeds benefiting the Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Department and the Community Youth Wednesday Night Bible Study. The cost of the supper will be \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 12 & under; so come on out on Tuesday night, get a good meal, and support these worthwhile community projects.

Roping Club sets meeting date

The Coke County Roping Club will meet on Wednesday, March 21, at the Roping Club Arena in Bronte. The short organizational meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. All former and prospective roping club members are invited to attend and have a voice in the management of this year's club.



Rocky Youngblood, District Safety Coordinator with Texas Department of Transportation, instructs the Coke County TxDOT maintenance section during the annual TxDOT Truck Roadeo on March 9, 2001. Ronnie Waggoner won the local roadeo with a total of 305 points.

New deacon for First Baptist Church of Bronte

There was a full house for the Sunday morning worship service at First Baptist Church of Bronte on March 4. The service featured the ordination of a new deacon for the church. Martin DeLaGarza was presented with a Bible and a certificate of ordination by pastor Morris Johnson. Martin has completed a screening process as outlined in the church's by-laws in which he was nominated for the office of deacon by members of the church, was interviewed by a deacon screening committee, and was presented to the church for ordination. During the morning service, Martin shared the testimony of his spiritual conversion, answered questions, and heard an ordination challenge by pastor Morris Johnson. Following the recommendation by deacon chairman Wendell Lee for a final vote by the church members to proceed with the ordination, the ordination prayer was voiced by deacon Ray Barnett. Martin then participated in a special time of prayer and encouragement called "the laying on of hands." In addition to pastor Morris Johnson, those participating in this portion of the service were those men currently

serving as active deacons of First Baptist Church: Wendell Lee (chairman), C. B. Barbee, Ray Barnett, Dale Ellis, Leslie Rolls, and Billy Tounget.

Martin, his wife Susan, and their children Lorenzo and Monica were special guests at a covered dish lunch in the church's fellowship hall. A large number of Martin's relatives were also present for this special service and meal. Martin and his family have been active members of First Baptist Church for many years where they are both involved in teaching youth Sunday School as well as other activities and ministries. Martin is employed by the Bronte Independent School District.

RL spring clean-up

The Spring Clean-Up campaign for Robert Lee is underway. Sponsored by the City of Robert Lee and Trash-away Services, the clean-up effort will allow residents of the city a chance to get rid of clutter around their homes and businesses.

The Tuesday route will receive free curb side pickup on Saturday, March 17. The Friday route will receive service on Saturday, March 24. Trucks will begin at 7:00 am.

Residents are encouraged to haul brush, tree limbs, and lumber material to the landfill. Landfill hours are Saturday,

9:00 am - 12:00 noon.

All residents are asked to be available to assist loading items over 50 pounds. NO trailer loads, NO household trash, tires, batteries, or chemicals will be accepted.

WCCCD to meet

West Coke County Community Development will hold a meeting on Monday, March 19, to discuss the upcoming fish fry and dance to promote the striper fishing contest on Lake Spence. A \$2,000 cash prize will be offered by the group through March 2002 or until R. L. Flanagan's current record of 35 lb. 2 oz. is broken.

Those interested in an effort to promote West Coke County and/or can help with the fish fry, meet with us at the courthouse shortly after 5 pm on Monday.

Inmates to work for City of Bronte

Inmates will be working for the City of Bronte the weeks of March 19-23 and March 26-30th.

The inmates will be mowing and cleaning the cemetery, building fences and picking up trash.

Anyone wanting to donate cookies, brownies and drinks can contact Pat or Lori at the City Hall, 473-3501.

Donations to help pay for meals are also appreciated.



Martin DeLaGarza (center) was recently ordained as a deacon at the First Baptist Church in Bronte. He is joined by his wife, Susan, and Brother Morris Johnson.

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

Obituaries

Cole

Clifton Cole was born in Pollock, La. on September 23, 1934. He passed away on Monday, March 12, 2001 at home after a lengthy illness. Clifton was a retired journeyman electrician with the I.B.E.W. He served with the U.S. Marine Corps. A military service will be held at Ft. Bliss in El Paso, Tx. on Friday, March 16, at 1:00. Arrangements are being handled by Hillcrest Funeral Home in El Paso, Tx.

Clifton is survived by his wife Linda of the home, 2 brothers, John C. Cole of Boyce, La., Kirby Cole of Carlisle, Ark., and 7 children: Debra Wilkes of Silver, Tx., Cheryl Ann Cole of Brusly, La., Karen Jameson of Deville, La., Cynthia Cole of Mabank, Tx., Gregory Cole of Reynoldsville, Pa., Daniel Cole of Athens, Tx., and Mary Olson of Austin, Minn. Mr. Cole had 20 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Marie Fontenot, 2 brothers, Rayford Cole, and Wayne Cole, his mother, Dovie Ryan Cole, his father, Albert N. Cole, and a grandchild, Delena Cole.

Donations may be made to Hospice of El Paso, American Heart Assoc., American Cancer Society, or a charity of your choice.

33a-1tc

Sevier

Johnny Sevier, 67, died Wednesday March 7, 2001 at his home in Robert Lee. Graveside services were held on Sunday, March 11, and burial was in Robert Lee Cemetery.

During his lifetime, Johnny excelled in several occupations. Although he enjoyed a reputation for being able to fix, build or repair anything, to us who called him Daddy or PaPa, his greatest successes were in being a father and a grandfather. The love he gave us and the example he set for us will be evident even in our children not yet born because of the way his life influenced ours.

These are things we learned from Daddy: Your word is your most valuable asset; to lend a helping hand to others without thought of what's in it for you; tolerance and strength in trying times; unconditional love; not to carry a grudge; to forgive people who have wronged you; to say what you

mean and mean what you say; an acceptance of things you cannot change; to laugh and love and hang together at times like this. Daddy cast a giant shadow and will be sorely missed by many, not just those of us who are honored to call him Daddy or PaPa. When we are unsure or have a problem we wish we could talk to him about, we will ask ourselves, "What would Daddy say?" And, if we think about it, we will know.

Johnny is survived by his wife, Lori Sevier of Robert Lee, daughters Kay Oden of Edgewood, NM, Gayle Shupak of Brazoria, and April Scott and Jennifer Scott of Robert Lee, and son Jason Scott of Gunpowder, MD. Johnny was preceded in death by sons Johnny Sevier, Jr. and Michael Scott, and grandson, Howard Neer. He was a beloved grandfather to 13 more grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren: Steven Chavez, David Sevier, Robin Sevier, Joseph Sevier, Kyle Sevier, April Razo, Jessie Scott, Casey Scott, Matthew Scott, Ryan Scott, Kayla Scott, Brittany Williams, Jonathan Williams, Emory Neer, Alina Razo, Tony Razo, Mariah Munoz, and Baby Chavez, whose arrival is expected in April.

33a-1tp

Bronte water supply update

With recent showers and warmer weather, pastures and yards have started to turn green. But, before starting a garden this spring, residents should be aware that unless significant run-off is received on the water shed, watering lawns and gardens will be prohibited.

As of April 13th, the level of Oak Creek Lake is less than one foot above the level at which Stage 4 of the Drought Contingency Plan will be in effect.

Water usage has remained low during the past few months. Conservation efforts have been effective. Citizens are to be commended for their efforts. But even with less water being used, the lake level continues to fall.

Daily lake levels will be posted at the City Hall, Post Office and First National Bank. Contact the City Hall, 473-3501, for more information.

Choir and wind ensemble to perform at Pecan Baptist

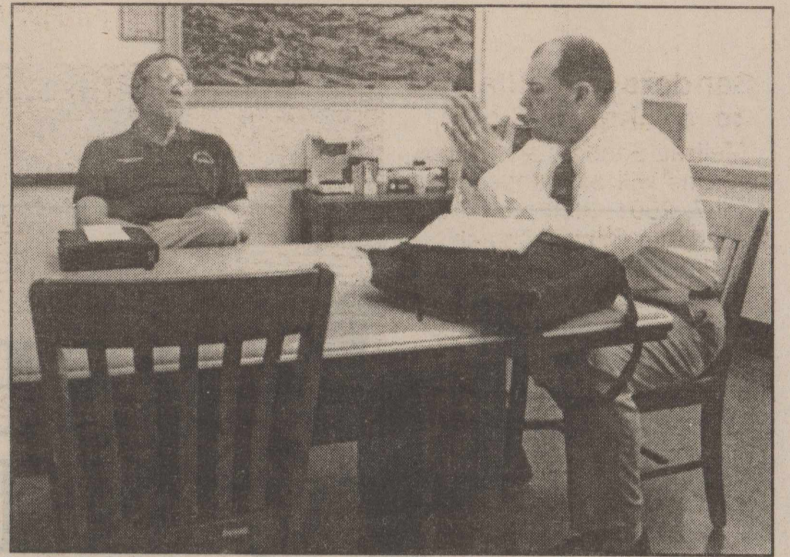
The Jacksonville College Choir and Wind Ensemble, under the combined leadership of Gerald Orr and Patience Jones, will present a concert at Pecan Baptist Church, 12 miles west of Robert Lee on Hwy 158.

The date and time for the concert is March 23, 2001 at 7:00 pm. The public is invited.

The Choir is under the direction of Gerald Orr, Chairman of the Music Department. Mr. Orr has held this position for thirty-nine years and is well known as a choral clinician and pianist. The choir, composed only partially of music majors, sings both a cappella and accompanied music of many styles and includes numbers from Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary periods. The concert consists of religious music, spirituals, and gospel songs.

Also accompanying the Choir is the Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Mr. Orr. The Wind Ensemble consists of ten instrumentalists performing on flutes, saxophone, baritone, trumpet, tuba and keyboard. The Choir and Wind Ensemble totaling 41 students includes those not only from Texas, but also from Washington. Also, from foreign countries are students of Mexico and Poland.

Within the Choir are three select vocal ensembles under the direction of Mrs. Patience Jones. Mrs. Jones is an Assistant in the Music Department and Director of Vocal Ensembles. She is well known as a pianist and is in her first year at Jacksonville College. These ensembles include Trio, Quartet, and the Singers. These groups perform during the concert and also separately throughout the school year. Their styles are varied and their member-



Roger Roewe (right), an aide to Congressman Charles Stenholm, visits with Robert Lee Care Center Administrator Roger Alexander during a visit to Coke County March 12. Among the items discussed were medical insurance premiums, farm programs, and issues that affect nursing homes and the elderly.

ship is attained by audition.

The theme for the concert is "Unfailing Love". This program consists of hymns, choruses, gospel songs, sacred harp songs, spirituals, and contemporary styles. It is designed to portray the great Christian heritage we have in music.

died in Robert Lee Care Center Thursday, March 8. Graveside service was held at 2 pm in Robert Lee Cemetery on Saturday, March 10.

She is survived by her son, Leroy Casey of Robert Lee and extended family of grandchildren, nephews and nieces, in-laws, and cousins.

Roberts

Military graveside service was held for Travis C. Roberts on Tuesday, March 13, at 11 am in Robert Lee Cemetery. Mr. Roberts, 78, died at his San Angelo residence on Sunday, March 11.

Survivors include his wife, Katie Roberts of San Angelo; two daughters, Marla Jean Giddens of San Angelo and Janis Ward and husband, Randy of Lubbock; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Death Notices

Reese

Joann Reese, 66, of Robert Lee died Monday, March 12, 2001, in a Robert Lee care center. Graveside service was held at 2:00 pm Thursday March 15, 2001, in the Robert Lee Cemetery. Arrangements were handled by Shaffer Funeral Home.

Survivors include her husband, Robert Reese of Robert Lee; two brothers, Bill Rabb of Meza, AZ and Jimmy Rabb of McKinney; two sisters, Marggie Mulkey of Katy and Jan Starkley of Florida.

Casey

Carrie Mable Casey, 89,

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 Rev. Ray Aldridge, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

Northside Church of Christ
 PO Box 388 • 9th & Chadbourne
 (915) 453-2619 or 453-2270
 Tommy Williams, Minister
 Services: Sun. 10 am & 6 pm;
 Wed. 7 pm

Pecan Baptist
 PO Box 542 • 12 W. Sterling City Hwy
 (915) 453-4645
 Rev. Dale Patterson, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship

Southside Church of Christ
 PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston
 (915) 453-2176

Frank J. Daniels, Preacher
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 6 pm, Worship
 Wed. 7 pm, Worship

Robert Lee Baptist Church
 PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th
 (915) 453-2724

Bro. Waide Messer, Pastor
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship
 Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
 601 W. 10th
 (915) 365-2687

Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor
 Sat. 6 pm

Victory Assembly of God
 PO Box 638 • Robert Lee
 (915) 453-2208

Rev. Erma Johnson, Pastor
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
 10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship
 Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting

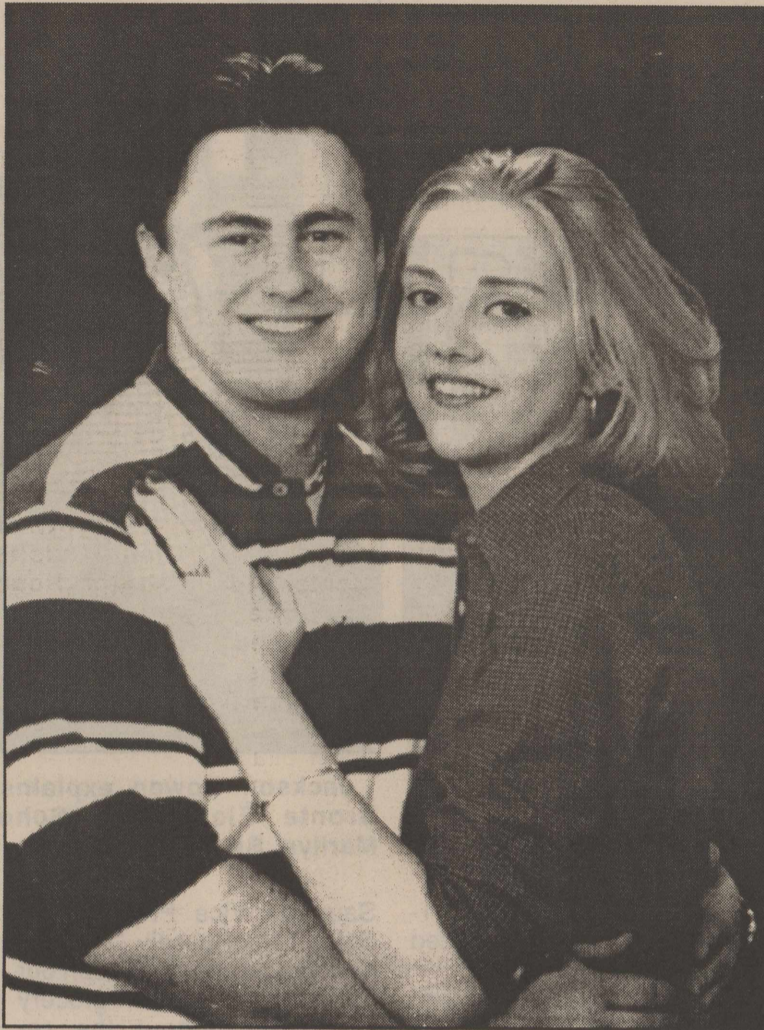
Sanders - Williams to exchange vows

Melissa Sanders and Randy Williams will exchange vows April 7, 2001, 3:00 pm, at the Robert Lee Baptist Church.

Melissa is the daughter of Robert & Gayla Sanders of Robert Lee. Randy is the son of Joe & Pam Williams of College Station.

Grandparents of the bride are Charles Nance and the late Dorothy Nance of Sundown and Ray & Ira Belle Sanders of Lubbock.

Grandparents of the groom are James & DeAlva Windham from Early, Tx and Claudia Williams and the late Robert Williams from Ira, Tx.



Randy Williams and Melissa Sanders

Arrests/Charges Filed

February 2001

Michael Lee Blessing of Abilene, Tx.

Driving while intoxicated 1st, 02-16-01

Jason Joe Martinez of Bronte, Tx.

Driving while intoxicated, 02-21-01

Randall Dean Bretz of Robert Lee, Tx.

Driving while intoxicated 1st, Making alcohol available to a minor

02-24-01

Arrests Made on Out of County warrants

Debra Osteen of Bronte, Tx.

Felony theft, 02-13-01, Nolan County Warrant

Linda Hernandez Andrade of Robert Lee, Tx.

Terrorist Threat - Bond Surrender

Resisting Arrest - Bond Surrender

Lubbock County Warrants, 02-16-01

Coke County Court Disposition 02-01-01

The State of Texas vs: Florention Hernandez Puente

Charge: Cruelty to animals

Plea: Fine \$500, court costs \$200.25, 9 months probation, deferred adjudication

Coke County Court Disposition 02-05-01

The State of Texas vs: James Alvin Davis

Charge: Driving while intoxicated 2nd

Plea: Fine \$1,500, court costs \$222.25, 1 year jail, probated for 2 years, 15 days confinement in jail

Coke County Grand Jury Indictments

The State of Texas vs: David Keith Autrey

Charge: Theft of firearm

The State of Texas vs: Gary Wayne Bryson

Charge: Driving while intoxicated 3rd or more

The State of Texas vs: Brent Reiningger

Charge: Theft; more than \$20K, less than \$100K

The State of Texas vs: Jimmy Dean Layman

Charge: Driving while intoxicated 3rd or more

Coke County Court Dispositions

February 22, 2001

Elias Torres Jr. of Veribest, Tx.

Charge: Cruelty to animals reduced to disorderly conduct

Plea: Fine \$500, court cost \$210.25

Ruben Duran of Robert Lee, Tx.

Charge: Disorderly conduct
Plea: Fine \$500, 15 days jail, probated 12 mo., forfeiture of 2 guns, court cost \$235.25

Adam Minjarez of Robert Lee, Tx.

Charge: Assault causes bodily injury family member reduced to disorderly conduct

Plea: Fine \$100, court cost \$235.25

Jeremy Ortega of Robert Lee, Tx.

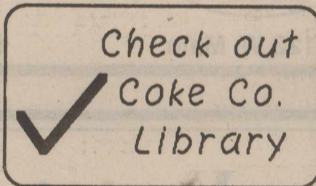
Charge: Driving while license suspended

Plea: Fine \$400, court costs \$210.25, 24 hrs. community service in 60 days

Bobby Joe Longoria of Robert Lee, Tx.

Charge: Purchase/furnish alcohol to a minor

Plea: \$300 fine, court cost \$210.25, 20 hrs. community service in 60 days



The magazine *Guideposts for Kids* reports that a Big Mac costs \$3.62 in Switzerland. That is the most expensive Big Mac in the world. The least expensive is in South Africa where the burger costs \$1.11. The United States is right in the middle at \$2.43, Britain burgers are \$2.89, Japan, \$2.78 and China has a real bargain price of \$1.18.

In an article on shoes, the magazine states that one of the oldest pair of sandals is noted on a 5,000 year-old carving in Egypt. Soldiers in Sparta wore red boots to hide blood so they wouldn't appear weak to their enemies.

About 150 years ago, Charles Goodyear created a way to make rubber more durable. Before that, shoes with rubber soles would stick to the sidewalk in summer. Rubber soles with canvas tops appeared around 1870. The shoes were called sneakers. One hundred years later a track coach experimenting with rubber soles in a waffle iron designed

a running shoe. Now 800 pairs of "sneakers" are sold every minute.

The Library invites those who enjoy reading magazines to borrow them from the nice selection that are donated by patrons throughout the year.

Library hours are Tuesday, 8-12; Wednesday, 8-4; Thursday, 1-5; Friday, 8-12.

Wool and mohair sign-up ends April 13

The FSA office is currently taking applications for the Wool and Mohair Market Loss Program (WAMLAP II) for 2000. Producers who produced and sheared wool and mohair from January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000 are eligible. This is just like the 1999 program. Bring sales documents when making an application.

Sign-up will end on April 13, 2001.

For more information call 915-453-2751.

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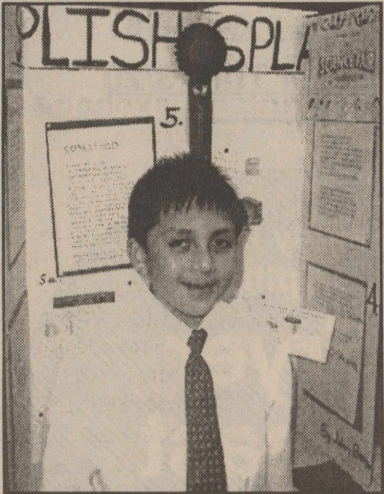
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IGA Eggs
Dozen **.69**

Bronte School News



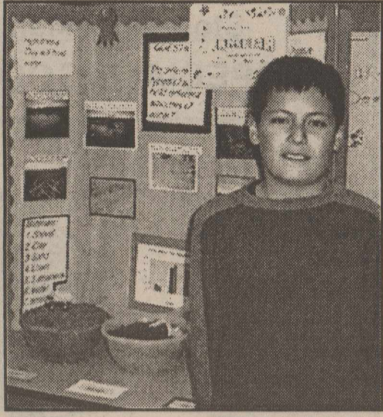
John Basquez, fifth grade, received 2nd place for his project, Splish Splash, at the Bronte Elementary School Science Fair.

Bronte Jr High girls track results

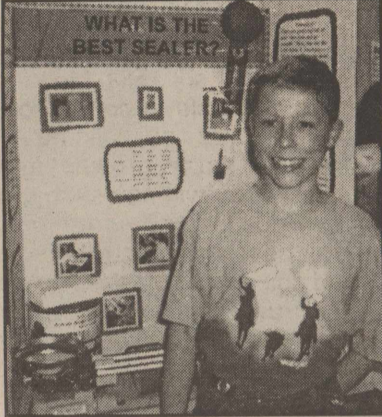
The Bronte Jr high girls participated in the Wildcat Relays held at Water Valley on March 1st.

Bronte results are as follows:

- Discus - 2nd - Ashleigh Kelly - 58'3"
- Shot put - 2nd - Ashleigh Kelly - 24'6 1/4"
- Long jump - 2nd - Calli Johnson - 13'7"; 5th - Christian Kelly - 13'2"
- Triple jump - 6th - Cheyenne Webb 25'11 1/2"
- High jump - 5th - Lilly McMullan - 4'2"
- 2400 M run - 6th - Jasmine Kresta 11:20.35
- 400 M Relay - 3rd - Calli Johnson, Ryan Martinez, Lilly McMullan, Cheyenne Webb - 58.05



Fourth grader Matthew Allen won 3rd place at the Bronte Elementary School Science Fair for his project, Soil Water.



Sixth grader Philip Rawlings received 2nd place at the Bronte Elementary School Science Fair for his project, What is the Best Sealer.

- 800 M run - 4th - Rebecca Rawlings - 2:53
- 100 M hurdles - 2nd - Lilly McMullan - 19.01
- 100 M dash - 5th - Megan Gibbs - 15.23
- 800 M relay - 4th - Calli Johnson, Cheyenne Webb, Megan Gibbs, Sarah Basquez - 2:09
- 200 M dash - 2nd - Lilly McMullan - 19.01; 5th - Cheyenne Webb - 31.33
- 1600 M run - 2nd - Rebecca Rawlings - 6:41; 5th - Angeles Guittierrez - 7:15; 6th - Jasmine Kresta - 7:26
- 1600 M Relay - 5th - Calli Johnson, Rebecca Rawlings, Sarah Basquez, Christian Kelly - 5:26.50

BISD board of trustees meets in regular session

The Board Of Trustees of the Bronte Independent School District met in regular session, Tuesday, March 6, 2001. Jeff Schoenfield was absent from the meeting.

The principals gave their reports to the board which included UIL activities, Spring sports events, and One Act Play. An invitation was given to the board members to attend a special video conference with the 4th graders at Texas Tech University on March 23.

The Board Evaluation was considered and completed.

The board considered and

offered contracts for 2001-2002 school year to Certified Personnel.

Alan Richey, Superintendent, gave his report to the board. His report included updates on facilities, Cadco, and CCJJC. Mr. Richey also updated the board on the financial status of the District. The Annual Board/Site Based Committee Retreat was discussed. The date is set for April 7, 2001, and will be held in the commons area. Early release dates were listed as March 30, April 12, May 18, and May 24. The regular board meeting dates were changed to April 19th and May 8th.

Correspondence included the notification from the Education Region XV of the Board of Directors Election.

Motion was made and passed to pay the February 2001 bills.

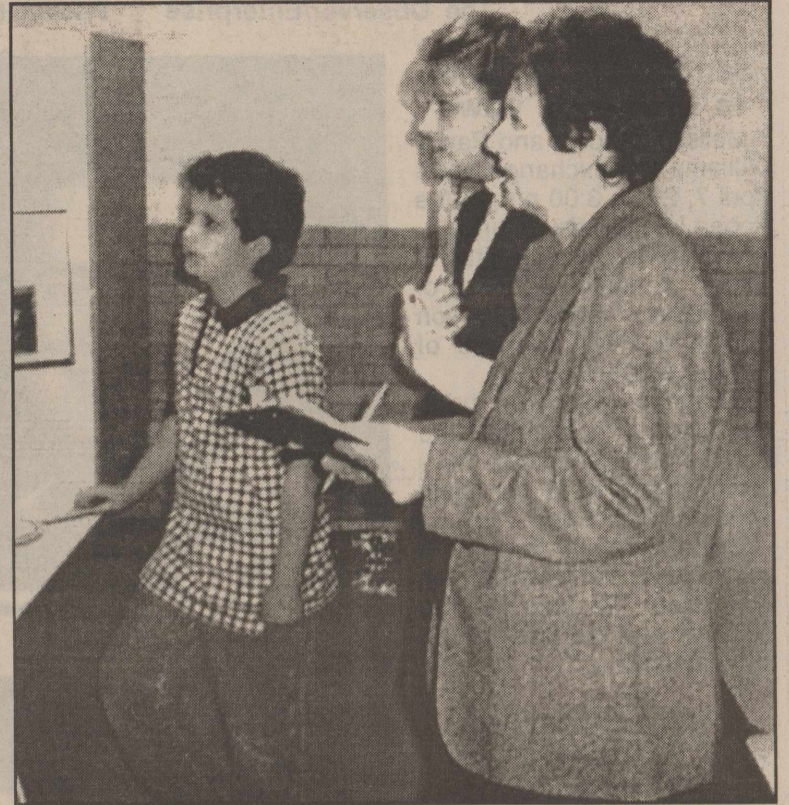
The meeting was adjourned by the President at 9:42 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 19, 2001, at 7:00 pm.

New snackwiches

Owens Country Sausage has announced the addition of two new flavors to its SnackWiches line. Owens' Pizza Tacos and large Bacon, Egg & Cheese Snack Wiches are being introduced into grocery stores this month.

The new products will bring new excitement to the line, according to Owens Country



Jackson Rowan explains his 3rd grade project to Bronte Elementary School Science Fair judges Marilyn Bivins and Donna Poehls.

Sausage Vice President of Sales Terry Russell. "With the new flavors, we have seen our presence increase in grocery stores throughout the region," he said.

Pizza tacos are a delicious combination of Italian sausage, pepperoni, green pepper, onions and a blend of cheeses in a soft flour tortilla. They will be packaged six in a box. "We expect this product to bring people, especially kids, into the category," Russell said. "Pizza is such a popular snack and meal item that it makes sense to make it part of our SnackWiches line." The pizza taco joins Owens' popular sausage taco.

The bacon, egg, and cheese Snack Wiches product features whole eggs and cheddar cheese on a buttermilk biscuit. These will be packaged five in a carton. "Even though competitors of-

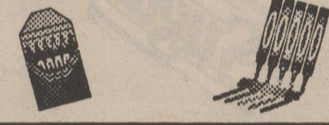
fer this flavor, we have waited until we found the perfect hickory-smoked bacon to include in the Owens line," Russell said. "We are very satisfied that we have a product that will compete favorably."

The new products will be available in grocery stores thought Texas and other states this month.

Abilene arts & crafts festival

The tenth annual Abilene Arts and Crafts Festival will be held March 17th and 18th in the Abilene Civic Center. More than one hundred exhibitors from throughout the Southwest will be on hand with original art and hand-crafted items. Hours for the show are Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday noon to 5 pm. There is no admission charge.

SCHOOL MENU



Breakfast

- Monday, March 19**
Breakfast burrito, sliced pears, cinnamon toast, milk
- Tuesday, March 20**
Breakfast pizza, apple juice, toast, milk
- Wednesday, March 21**
Scrambled eggs, hash-browns, biscuit, milk
- Thursday, March 22**
Cereal or oatmeal, apple sauce, teddy grams, milk
- Friday, March 23**
Pancake and sausage on a stick, grape juice, biscuit, milk

Lunch

- Monday, March 19**
Chicken strips with gravy, creamed potatoes, green beans, rolls, milk, banana pudding
- Tuesday, March 20**
Soft taco with cheese, re-fried beans, lettuce & tomato, flour tortilla, milk, peach cobbler
- Wednesday, March 21**
Cheeseburgers, French fries, lettuce, tomato, pickle, bun, milk, pink panther cake
- Thursday, March 22**
Chicken pot pie, sliced peaches, stir fried rice, corn on the cob, milk
- Friday, March 23**
Spaghetti with meat sauce, tossed salad, sweet corn, bread sticks, milk, chocolate cake

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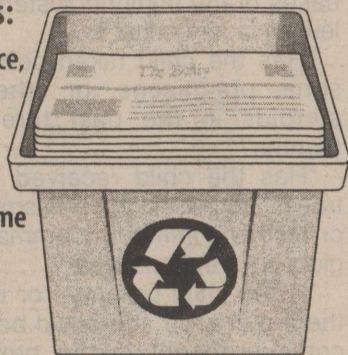
Keeping an Eye on Texas

Talking trash

Texans annually spend more than \$1 billion on solid waste collection and disposal services for nearly 22 million tons of trash. That's more than one ton for every person in the state and enough garbage, collectively, to fill the Astrodome every two weeks.

Recycling one ton of paper saves:

- about three cubic yards of landfill space,
- two barrels of oil,
- 7,000 gallons of water and
- 4,100 kilowatt-hours of electricity (enough to power an average-size home for six months).



SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller (www.window.state.tx.us) and Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC).



COUNTRY AGENTS NEWS

by Tommy Antilley
Coke County Agent

Easy Gardening mulching

Mulching your garden shows you really care about your plants. A mulch is any substance spread on the ground to protect plant roots from heat, cold or drought or to keep fruit clean.

Mulching is a long established horticultural practice. Farmers know that shallow cultivation of the soil's surface after a rain slows the rate of water loss from the soil. The shallow layer of dry surface soil acts as a mulch.

Mulches can be classified as inorganic or organic. Inorganic mulches include plastic, rocks, rock chips and other non-plant materials; whereas, organic mulches include straw, compost, sawdust and similar materials. Plastic is the only inorganic mulch used in vegetable gardens.

A thin layer of mulch on the soil surface (especially in sloping gardens) reduces the washing away of soil particles by rushing water. Also, mulches prevent raindrops from splashing on the soil particles by rushing water. Also, mulches prevent raindrops from splashing on the soil surface. Saving soil moisture is an important use of mulch in Texas. A mulch layer on the soil surface allows the soil to soak up more water. Mulch also reduces the rate of water loss from the soil. A 3-inch layer of mulch on the soil surface dries much faster than the soil below it. Thus it prevents water from moving into the air.

Mulches modify soil temperature in home gardens. Applied in late fall, winter mulch insulates plant roots, crowns and stems of winter crops from extremely low temperatures. Proper mulching in summer months keeps the soil cooler. Soil covered by black or clear plastic or dark organic mulch in early spring warms faster than bare soil. This allows earlier planting of warm-season crops.

Use light-colored paper such as newspaper in summer to keep the soil cooler. Organic mulches such as com-

post and sawdust also keep soil below the mulch layer cooler in summer. Dark soil warms much faster than light-colored soil.

Organic mulches enrich the soil as they decay and provide a better environment for plant growth. Soils high in organic matter are easier to till and better suited to vegetable gardening. Adding organic material makes soils more crumbly, especially clay soils that pack and crust.

Mulches help plants by gradually increasing soil fertility. An organic mulch such as straw or newspaper can be turned under the soil at the end of the season. This helps build the soil's organic matter content. Turn the mulch under as soon as gardening season is over so it breaks down before the garden is replanted.

Most mulches also provide excellent weed control. Mulches do not prevent weed seeds from sprouting. However, weed seedling emergence is blocked by a mulch layer thick enough to exclude light. A 3-inch layer of mulch on the soil surface keeps most annual weed seedlings from coming through. Weeds that break through are removed more easily from

mulched soil. Hard-to-control weeds such as nutgrass and johnsongrass may come through the mulch layer but can be pulled more easily or covered by fluffing the mulch with a fork.

A well-mulched garden can yield 50 percent more than an unmulched garden the same size. Space rows closer as there is little or no need to cultivate the soil. Plant food is more available in cooler soil, and the extra soil moisture increases plant growth and yields. You will harvest more fruit because of less fruit rot. Fruit does not touch the soil, and soil is not splashed up on the fruit. This is true for tomato fruits that rot easily when resting on the soil surface. Potatoes can be mulched heavily as the vines grow. This causes tubers to form in and under the mulch layer. These potatoes are less susceptible to soil rot, easier to harvest and less likely to be bruised during harvest.

Garden mulching reduces maintenance. A good mulch layer eliminates the need for weeding, and mulched vegetables are cleaner at harvest time. Fruits of tomato, melon and squash plants never touch the soil.

Many materials are available for mulching a garden. Some examples are: compost, straw, gin trash and sawdust.

*Compost is generally the best mulching material for the home garden. It is usually free of weed seeds and is inexpensive. Prepare compost from materials present in your yard. It is not necessary to purchase expensive materials for mulching.

*Straw is short lived and coarse textured. More straw is needed for the same effect as compost or lawn clippings. Generally, less of the finer-textured materials is required to provide a 3-inch layer of mulch after settling, compost, however, usually requires only about 4 inches to provide a 3-inch mulch layer.

*Gin trash is commonly available in Texas. It is risky to use, however, without knowing its source and prior treatment. Make sure that the farmer did not use arsenicals on the cotton. Arsenicals are long-lived chemicals that can be present in gin trash for several months or years. Also, gin trash may contain

weed seeds and diseases. Compost gin trash before applying it to your garden to make it safer and easier to use. The heat generated by composting kills most weed seeds and most disease organisms that infect plants.

*Sawdust is commonly available especially in East Texas. If well managed, it can be a good mulch. It can result in a temporary, but sharp, decrease in soil nitrogen. Add a small amount of garden fertilizer to the soil after applying sawdust directly to a garden. Even better, add nitrogen to sawdust, then compost it before spreading it on your garden.

*Plastic is an effective mulch if used properly. Use black plastic in the spring and early summer to warm the soil. Black plastic keeps light from the soil and prevents weeds from growing. Clear plastic warms the soil, but weeds can grow beneath the plastic. A disadvantage of plastic is that it cannot be turned into the soil at the end of the season.

When selecting materials, consider these factors:

Cost of the material. Do not spend money on mulching material when suitable materials are available at little or no cost.

The crop you plan to mulch. Never use material from the crop that is to be protected. For example, do not use potato vines from the spring crop to mulch fall potatoes for the possibility of disease is increased.

When the mulch is to be used. Select a light-colored mulch during the summer and early fall to reflect heat. Use a dark-colored mulch in early spring to help warm the soil to permit earlier planting and hasten early growth. When using mulches spread on freshly cultivated, weed-free soil before plants are large enough to interfere. Apply organic mulch thick enough to leave a 3-inch layer after settling. Four inches of fine materials like compost should be adequate. Remember that coarser material, such as straw, settle and may require 6 inches or more initially. If you use newspaper, place three layers on each side of the row. Add more mulch during the season if

you are working with organic materials. The mulch settles and gradually rots during the growing season where it meets the moist soil surface. Adding additional layers assures continuous weed control, a clean resting place for the fruits of your labor and creates a pleasing appearance all season long.

Student exchange program

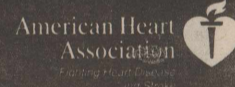
World Heritage, a non-profit student exchange program, is currently seeking a local community representative to provide high school exchange students with program support. The ideal candidate should enjoy fostering international friendships, be community minded, and enjoy working with teenagers. Community representatives screen potential host families, meet with local high schools, and provide support counseling for host families and students.

World Heritage also provides international opportunities for families to host a student and for an American teen to become an exchange student. If you are interested in one of these rewarding experiences, please call Ande Bloom at 1-800-888-9040 or visit the website at www.worldheritage.org.

World Heritage is a non-profit, public benefit organization. World Heritage is designated as an exchange visitor program by the U.S. State Department.

Retired teachers to meet

The Coke County Retired Teachers Association will meet Monday, March 19, 2001. The noon luncheon meeting will be held at the United Methodist Church in Robert Lee.



JOIN THE FIRM.
EXERCISE.

"Don't squat with your spurs on."

Eugene Shipp worked maintenance for an electric coop for twenty-eight years. During an ice storm in '78, he worked thirty-eight hours straight, fixing downed lines and restoring power. He retired two years ago to spend more time on his ranch, working his own hours. He uses coop power; he knows he can count on it.

Eugene belongs to a Smart Choice cooperative. What's "Smart Choice?" We're a coalition of West Texas coops committed to making the right decision on electric deregulation.

The goal of deregulation is to bring the benefits of retail competition to the power industry. But so far, in states such as California and Pennsylvania, reality has fallen short of the promise, often bringing higher rates and even outages. The Legislature gives coops the opportunity to decide whether they will opt in or out of deregulation. We intend to take advantage of that to be sure deregulation is right for our owner-members.

Texas electric cooperatives have been providing power to Texans since 1937. As coops, we are non-profit and member-owned. Watch for other articles to learn more about us and how we're responding to the challenge and opportunity of electric deregulation.



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Robert Lee School News

RL varsity boys track results

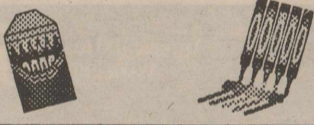
The Robert Lee Varsity boys track team finished second behind Iraan in the team totals at the Irion County track meet last Friday. Results are as follows:

3200 - 6th - Travis Taylor
 Weight man relay - 1st - Cates, Edging, McCabe, Riley
 400 meter relay - 3rd - Brown, Ballew, Clendennen, Lott
 110 meter hurdles - 4th - Anson Lott
 800 meter run - 4th - J. J. Reyes
 100 meter dash - 2nd - Bret Ballew; 3rd - Taylor Clendennen
 300 meter hurdles - 6th - Favian Minjarez
 200 meter dash - 3rd - Anson Lott; 6th - Taylor Clendennen
 1600 meter relay - 4th - Eubanks, Reyes, Pitcock, Ballew
 Long jump - 4th - Anson Lott
 Shot put - 1st - Cooper Riley; 5th - Adam Cates; 6th - Sean Edging
 Discus - 3rd - Charles Abalos; 4th - Cooper Riley
 Pole Vault - 1st - Stewart Millican

RL JV boys track results

400 meter relay - 3rd - Braswell, Abalos, Eubanks, Flanagan
 110 meter hurdles - 2nd - Brian Abalos
 100 meter dash - 3rd - Cole Flanagan
 300 meter hurdles - 3rd - Brian Abalos
 200 meter dash - 3rd - Cole Flanagan
 High jump - 5th - Brian Abalos; 6th - Cole Flanagan

SCHOOL MENU



Breakfast

Monday, March 19
 Orange juice, muffin, cereal, milk
Tuesday, March 20
 Orange juice, biscuit, sausage, cereal, milk
Wednesday, March 21
 Orange juice, donut, cereal, milk
Thursday, March 22
 Orange juice, blueberry pancake with sausage on stick, cereal, milk
Friday, March 23
 Orange juice, donut, cereal, milk

Lunch

Monday, March 19
 Chili con carne w/crackers, corn, tator tots, pineapple upside down cake, milk
Tuesday, March 20
 Grilled cheese sandwich, vegetable soup, crackers, pickles, applesauce, milk
Wednesday, March 21
 Spaghetti, carrots, salad, sliced bread, gingerbread, milk
Thursday, March 22
 Steakfingers w/gravy, creamed potatoes, green beans, rolls, fruit cocktail, milk
Friday, March 23
 Chick-fil-A, pickles, tator tots, peaches, ice cream, milk

Shot put - 3rd - Chris Eubanks
 Discus - 4th - Chris Eubanks

The Breakfast Club

This year 4th and 5th graders from Robert Lee Elementary who met their Accelerated Reading Goals participated in what we call, The Breakfast Club. In order to get into the Breakfast Club, you have to read books and take tests to earn points. Every kid has a certain amount of points that they have to earn each six weeks.

So far, the club has gone to Diane's Chuckwagon, Godfather's Pizza, and Cracker Barrel. The first time Mrs. Byrne cooked a wonderful breakfast for the club.

For the 4th six weeks the people who participated were: 5th graders; Jesse Braswell, Molly Burns, Cody Denton, Brody Dillard, Ashley Hopson, Briana Longoria, Allison Millican, Taylor Percifull, Chase Roe, Anna Rojas, Kasie Skinner, Andrew Craft, and Ray Rector. 4th graders; Holly Austin, Jennifer Barrett, Kaden Duncan, Joshua Gallegos, Morgan Hill, Arrin Minjarez, Michael Rodriguez, Norma Rojas, Cody Williamson, Jimmy Womack, Kimberly Cardenas, Amy Barnett, Garret Blair, Jasmine Gloria, Caleb Millican, Olga Perez, Mason Ross, and Cori Torres.

Written by 5th graders: Chase Rose, Allison Millican, Molly Burns, and Anna Rojas

Truth about vaccines

Parents choose not to immunize their children for many reasons. One is the fear of adverse reactions to the vaccine. Sometimes parents perceive a greater risk in immunizing their children than in not doing so. But most parents have faith in their pediatricians and follow their childhood immunization guidelines.

Immunizations are necessary to protect children from dangerous childhood diseases that can cause serious health problems and even death.

Currently vaccines are available for measles, mumps, polio, rubella (German measles), pertussis (whooping cough), diphtheria, tetanus, haemophilus influenzae type b, hepatitis and varicella (chickenpox).

The physicians of Texas Medical Association want you to know that vaccines are the best defense there is against infectious diseases. Preventable infectious diseases are at an all-time low and few people experience their effects. But that does not mean they cannot strike, and children who are not immunized present a health threat to themselves and others. Since most preventable diseases are spread communicatively, a community's health is nothing more than a sum of its citizens' health - adults and children.

Why Health Professionals Recommend Immunizations

*Children and adults who have not been immunized are at far greater risk of becoming infected with, and harmed by, serious infectious diseases.

*Infants and young children are particularly vulnerable to infectious disease and have a critical need for protection through immunization.

Although there are small risks associated with every immunization, children and adults are far more likely to be harmed by the diseases than by the immunizations.

*People who are not immunized increase the chance that others will get the disease.

Vaccines are Valuable

Vaccines are effective. For example, measles, a major killer worldwide, has almost disappeared in the United States. Before the measles vaccine was first used in 1963, more than 500,000 cases were reported per year. In 1998 and 1999 only 100 cases were reported per year. About 200,000 cases of whooping cough (pertussis) were reported per year before the vaccine was available. Currently the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention report only about 7,000 cases per year.

As with all medicines, vaccines do carry a degree of risk. Vaccines are becoming safer and more effective as a result of medical research and ongoing review by doctors, researchers, and public health officials.

To ensure a vaccine's safety, parents should be prepared to answer their pediatrician's questions including:

*Is the child sick?

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*Does the child have allergies to medications, food or any vaccine?

*Has the child had a serious reaction to a vaccine in the past?

*Has the child had seizures or brain-related illnesses?

*Does the child, or any person who lives with or cares for him, have AIDS or other diseases of the immune system, leukemia, or cancer?

*Has the child taken cortisone, prednisone, or other steroids in the past three months?

*Has the child received a transfusion of blood or plasma or received immune (gamma) globulin in the past year?

*Is the child pregnant or is there a chance she could become pregnant in the next three months?

Individual immune systems may react to vaccines differently, possibly leading to unprotected periods. Commonly, children experience side effects after a vaccination such as a slight fever, rash, or soreness at the injection site.

The Food and Drug Administration regulates vaccines in the United States. Before receiving FDA approval, vaccines undergo laboratory studies, animal testing, and human testing. Adult evaluation trials precede any testing performed on infants and children. The lengthy evaluation process ensures that the vaccine does not cause adverse harm.

For the best advice on where to find reliable information on immunizations, consult your doctor or nurse.

Texas Medical Association is a professional organization of more than 36,000 physician and medical student members. It is located in Austin and has 118 component county medical societies around the state. The Association represents 85 percent of the doctors of medicine licensed and residing in Texas. TMA's key objective is to improve the health of all Texans.

New online enrollment option

Carole Keeton Rylander
 Texas Comptroller
 Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander announced a new online enrollment option that will make it more convenient for Texas families to enroll their children in the Texas Tomorrow Fund, the state's prepaid college tuition program.

The Texas Tomorrow Fund

Web address is www.texas tomorrowfund.org, or go directly to the Texas Online payment portal at www.texasonline.com.

"Online enrollment in the Texas Tomorrow Fund is part of my e-Texas initiative to use Internet technology to make government more efficient and responsive to taxpayers." Comptroller Rylander said. "In just a few minutes online, you can make the decision to enroll your child in the Texas Tomorrow Fund and complete the application process right away, so you won't put it off or forget about it."

Online enrollment could help reduce the traditional deluge of applications during the closing days of Texas Tomorrow Fund enrollment periods. For the thousands who wait until the last minute, online enrollment will help ensure that their applications reach Texas Tomorrow Fund officials by the enrollment deadline.

The current Texas Tomorrow Fund enrollment period ends May 25.

Comptroller Rylander urges parents and grandparents to enroll their children in the Texas Tomorrow Fund and take advantage of the opportunity to pay for tomorrow's college education at today's prices, and avoid soaring college costs.

The Texas Tomorrow Fund allows parents to prepay for up to five years of tuition and required fees at a Texas public or private university, two years at a community college or two years at a community college plus two or three years at a senior college. Parents can pay in a lump sum or select a long-term payment plan that suits their family budget.

For details about the Texas Tomorrow Fund, including contract prices and payment options, visit the Texas Tomorrow Fund Web site at www.texas tomorrowfund.org or call 1-800-445-GRAD (4723).

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

With Jim Woodruff of EdwardJones

Patience Pays

When financial markets become the least bit volatile, it's human nature to consider shifting your investment strategies. It's the 1990's equivalent of driving our wagons into a circle to fight off an unwanted intruder.

But as tempting as this may seem, it's not always a wise idea. For one thing, a change in investment strategies when markets have temporarily declined can often mean selling securities for a loss in an effort to move your money into safer havens. This can be even more painful if the security you just sold rebounds in value two months after you removed it from your portfolio (as is often the case).

That's why I recommend investors take a longer-term view and adopt a strategy which is called "buy and hold." Making this strategy work for you requires patience and a good deal of research prior to making an investment. Let me explain.

Before making an investment decision, it's important to determine whether the investment you are buying has a good long-term future. If it doesn't then you should refrain from buying it.

The difficult question, of course, is: how do I spot an investment that has a good future? Part of the answer to this question can only be determined by looking at your own objectives before reviewing the potential of the investment. Just as beauty is in the eye of the beholder, different investments appeal to different investors.

For example, some investors may feel that a GIC is perfect for them because it delivers steady returns. The same investment, however, will not appeal to those who are seeking medium or long-term growth. In fact, for growth oriented investors, GICs may be less appealing because they do not provide the kind of potential returns that will enable them to build a large nest egg for retirement. These investors may favor stocks, a stock mutual fund or a bond fund, depending on their personal objectives.

Don't mistake volatility for a bad investment.

A common mistake is to choose a security that pursues different objectives from your own. Another equally common problem is to mistake

volatility for a bad investment. Investments that offer greater upside potential are usually the more volatile. Bonds, bond funds, equities and equity funds are such investments. Working with an independent investment advisor, you can establish your own objectives and then take a long hard look at which investments make more sense to you.

But once you've been "matched" with the right investment, you must be patient and avoid the temptation of cashing out because of short-term fluctuations. Unfortunately, many investors sell when they should be buying or holding. You should remember to take a long-term view of markets.

Timing the market is a Mug's game.

Many people become confused by all the bad headlines in the media or they try to time their investments to coincide with short-term conditions. Timing the market is a strategy that is great in theory, but rarely works in practice. That's why few if any professional money managers attempt to time the market, opting instead for thorough research to determine which investments have a good future. Once they've satisfied themselves that a security measures up to various investment tests, professional investors buy and hold. If professional money managers follow the buy and hold strategy, perhaps there's a lesson to be learned for you and I.

Quite simply, patience pays when you start with the right investment.

WTU files request to recover uncollected fuel costs

American Electric Power's (AEP) West Texas Utilities (WTU) subsidiary has filed a request with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) for permission to recover in customer bills approximately \$59.5 million in under-collected costs for fuel used to generate electricity. The filing is the result of the continuing increase in natural gas costs throughout the entire country. These costs have exceeded significantly the amount charged to customers.

If approved as requested, the surcharge would begin

with the May billing cycle and continue through December. Residential customers using 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity will see an increase of \$17.40 a month during this seven-month period.

WTU customers this month began seeing the impact of an interim increase in the fuel factors used to determine the fuel charge portion of the bill to more currently reflect the market price of natural gas. However, this interim increase in fuel factors, which still must receive final approval from the PUCT, did not address the approximately \$59.5 million in uncollected fuel costs for the period from July 2000 to January 2001.

Natural gas prices from July 2000 through January 2001 were up to four times higher than prices during the same period of the prior year. Despite the fact that 43 percent of WTU's generation is fueled by low-cost coal, the sheer magnitude of the continued increases in the price of natural gas that began last summer prompted WTU to request the fuel factor increase in January and now the surcharge.

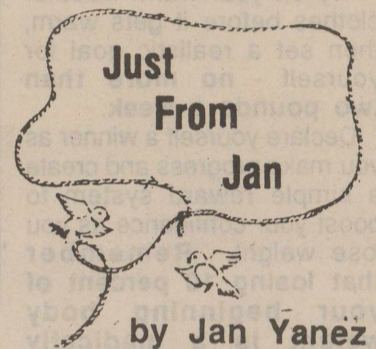
Fuel costs are an expense of generating electricity, which WTU must pay to fuel suppliers. WTU does not make any profit on fuel costs as the PUCT requires that these costs be passed through to customers at the price paid by WTU.

Investor-owned electric utilities in Texas, like WTU, are required by the PUCT to use fuel factors based on cost estimates to collect the projected cost of fuel used to generate electricity at their power plants. When the actual cost of fuel is significantly more than the amount customers paid in their monthly bills, then PUCT rules require that the utility file a request for permission to recover these amounts through a surcharge.

American Electric Power is a multinational energy company based in Columbus, Ohio.

AEP owns and operates more than 38,000 megawatts of generating capacity, making it one of America's largest generators of electricity. The company is also a leading wholesale energy marketer and trader, ranking second in the U.S. in electricity volume.

AEP provides retail electricity to more than 9 million customers worldwide with major assets in the U.S. and holdings in select international markets. Wholly owned subsidiaries are involved in power engineering and construction services, energy management and telecommunications. Information about AEP and its subsidiaries is available on the World Wide Web at www.AEP.com.



by Jan Yanez
Coke County
Ext. Agent

Use cleaning products safely

Even though cleaning products are carefully evaluated, health effects can still result from accidental exposure, especially with young children. The following are tips for using cleaning products safely.

Do:
*Read the label directions for proper use, storage and disposal. Call the toll free number on the label for additional information or if you have questions.

*Store cleaning products away from food and where they are not accessible to young children or pets.

*Keep products in their original containers with their

labels intact. Information about proper use, storage and disposal, as well as precautions and first aid instructions, are on the original label. Label instructions and first aid information may not be accurate for a different product, causing misuse of the product or inaccurate emergency treatment.

*Put cleaning products away immediately after using the amount needed for the job. This will limit accessibility to young children and help prevent accidental spills.

*Keep buckets with cleaning solutions out of the reach of young children and pets.

*Properly close all containers, especially those with child resistant caps.

*Ventilate areas where cleaning products are being used.

Don't:
*Mix cleaning products. Products which are safe when used alone sometimes create dangerous fumes if mixed with other products.

*Reuse an empty household cleaning product container for any other purpose. The label instructions and precautions for the original product may be inaccurate or dangerous if used for a different product.

Remember to use cleaning products safely.

Always behave like a duck - keep calm and unruffled on the surface but paddle like the devil underneath.

Jacob Braude

COLLECTABLES AUCTION

Sunday, March 18, at 1 pm
Sterling City, Texas

Go north on Highway 87 past the Town & Country store. Turn right at the Pool Yard. Watch for signs! Go approx. 3 blocks to 1502 7th Street.

PLEASE PARK OUTSIDE OF THE GATE.

Folks, everything must be paid for & removed on sale day!

1878 platform rocker, old Avery cream separator, cedar chest, 2 nice old washstands, old gentleman's dresser (needs work), lg. maple hutch, chifforobe, beautiful mesquite coffee table, electric piano & bench, super nice modern daybed w/trundle, several old metal beds, oak dresser, Sielaff coke machine, 1960's coke machine, two Cavalier coke machines, old coke box, other coke items (clock, bell, sign, trays), Pepsi machine, 6¢ Dr Pepper machine, 1930's Gilbarco gas pump (Chevron), two southwest gas pumps, advertising signs, lg. enamel Goodyear sign, Little Orphan Annie decoder pin, 1906 gold carved bracelet (approx. 26 grams), Western Electric phone booth (wooden), metal porch glider, cast iron tubs & a rare cast iron corner sink, some dolls, pair of old oval pictures, slot machine & stand, Orange Crush thermometer, wagon wheels, yard windmill, primitives, wash pot & other cast iron wash tubs, Princess Diana wedding cup, old cameras, 3/4 length nice fur coat, set of 1966 Charlie Brown dolls, lg. elk oil painting, records, Craftsman air compressor, Craftsman riding lawn mower, steel case desk w/hutch, some tools, die cast cars, sports cards, Winchester bolt action 22, Savage semi-automatic 22 w/scope, and much, much more!

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Proceeds will go to the Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Department & the Community Youth Wednesday Night Bible Study.

'Short Shock'

Layer by layer, millions of Americans will begin peeling off winter's shroud of bulky, concealing garb to welcome spring's long-awaited arrival. From bathing suits to sleeveless shirts and shorts, the season for dressing lighter and cooler is finally here! At the first sign of warm weather, people across the Southwest will flock to their favorite retailer to try on this year's hottest spring and summer fashions only to uncover winter's last will and testament - weight gain. And before you know it, sheer joy is quickly replaced by despair, frustration and then, PANIC...the race against the calendar will almost immediately begin as 'Short Shock' settles in.

Before heading down the wrong road, Weight Watchers Southwest strongly urges the 'Short Shocked' to think and react rationally and not resort to hasty, unhealthy behaviors. "Despite wanting immediate results, quick fixes only provide temporary results," said Anne Churchill, spokesperson for Weight Watchers Southeast. "This is the opportune time to assess realistic weight loss goals and begin the gradual process of making a lifestyle adjustment. Think of it as spring cleaning for the body."

The temptation to crash diet is loaded with pitfalls that do not contribute to long-term weight loss. While it is possible to shed weight by restricting caloric intake, deprivation and rapid weight loss can be a very unhealthy combination. Hunger, headaches, irritability and fatigue often accompany crash dieting. The physical and emotional toll from food deprivation can spur binge eating and yo-yo dieting.

Experts agree that crash dieting is the wrong way to lose unwanted weight. A safer and more lasting approach is to make Lifestyle changes incorporating food and physical activity with the safe and healthy target of shedding up to two pounds per week. Weight Watchers offers a simple, structured approach to long-term weight loss that may be adapted to an individual's preferences and lifestyle.

Most recently two separate studies have singled-out Weight Watchers for its proven success and effectiveness. In its first-ever-comprehensive scientific review of popular weight-loss diets, the USDA and its Human Nutrition Research Center concluded weight-loss regimens like Weight Watchers are most successful in long-term weight loss. The entire report will be released in the March/April edition of the *Journal of Obesity Research*. In another study published in the September 2000 edition of the *American Journal of Medicine* researchers found that the Weight Watchers program is more likely to be effective for managing moderately overweight participants than brief counseling and self-help diets.

"Crash dieting sets the body and mind up for failure," said Karen Miller Kovach, RD,

MS, chief scientist for Weight Watchers International. "Deprivation stokes feeling of panic and undermines any sense of self-control, which is crucial to weight-loss success. Easing into a lifestyle change that makes eating and fitness pleasurable happens gradually, not overnight."

Unlike typical weight loss quick fixes and crash dieting, Weight Watchers focuses on the behaviors that cause overeating, not just on food. And since preparation is the key to success, Weight Watchers recommends the following tip on averting 'Short Shock' as you prepare for your spring assessment:

Try on your warm weather clothes before it gets warm, then set a realistic goal for yourself - **no more than two pounds a week.**

Declare yourself a winner as you make progress and create a simple reward system to boost your confidence as you lose weight. **Remember that losing 10 percent of your beginning body weight is a medically significant milestone. And losing 10 percent of your body weight is at least one size down.**

Group support or teaming up with someone can help keep you motivated to succeed. Don't go it alone.

Learn from your mistakes, overcoming common obstacles allow you to master the skills that will ultimately put you in control of your weight. Don't allow obstacles to deter you, overcome them.

Give yourself breathing room - take simple, small steps to improving your lifestyle.

Dieting is not deprivation: You don't have to give up your favorite foods. Learn to enjoy your favorite foods - just in smaller proportions.

Search for and experiment with lighter, low-cal recipes. This is the best time to make good use of the season's fresh supply of fruits and vegetables.

Make a list of your many strengths (keep the list handy for inspiration). Don't focus on your weaknesses.

Exercise is an important piece to the weight loss puzzle. **Find activities you feel comfortable doing (early morning or evening walks, take the stairs instead of the elevator, etc.).** Don't avoid physical activity because you're embarrassed or feel overwhelmed.

People who attend Weight Watchers meetings are much more likely to lose weight than people who try to lose weight on their own. In fact, about 6.3 million people have lost more than 63.7 million pounds since the fall of 1997 when Weight Watchers launched the POINTS Weight-Loss System. Currently approximately 675,000 people attend more than 20,000 meetings each week across North America. To learn more about Weight Watchers, visit www.weightwatchers.com or for information about Weight Watchers meeting locations, call 1-800-651-6000.



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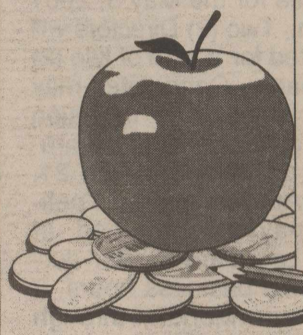
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Keeping an Eye on Texas

Dollars and Sense

Wise investment strategies earn bigger returns. Texas school districts that increase the amount of interest earned on excess cash by 1/10 of 1 percent, could gain an extra \$23 million.



With the dollars earned from higher interest rates, school districts could afford:

- 612 more teachers at \$37,567 each,
- OR
- 460 more school buses at \$50,000 each,
- OR
- 15,333 more computers at \$1,500 each,
- OR
- 460,000 more library books at \$50 each.

SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (www.window.state.tx.us), Banks to Bonds: A Practical Path to Sound School District Investing.

Meet the enemy of less expensive government

by Jack Z. Smith

Recently, the Fort Worth City Council received a report regarding an agreement under which the city will pay Tarrant County \$104,403 for enforcement actions by deputy county constables against illegal dumping within the city.

That six-figure sum is minuscule in comparison to the annual city operating budget of \$628 million.

But the anti-dumping expenditure exemplifies a painful truth that often goes ignored: Although taxpayers love to carp about wasteful government spending, many public expenditures are required only because we, the people, don't act responsibly. For example, we illegally dump trash along roadways, which makes it necessary for the city to allocate money to thwart the dumping.

It is we, the people, who commit thousands of offenses (ranging from speeding to murder) that result in the expenditure of \$130 million annually for crime prevention and control in Fort Worth. The city employs 1,558 uniformed and civilian personnel in the Police Department just to see that we behave.

It is we, the people, who -- through arson, carelessness or stupidity -- cause many of the fires, hazardous waste spills or other problems that require the attention of the 782 - employee Fire Department. Its annual budget is \$58.6 million.

It is we, the people, who commit offenses that require the operation of a municipal court system at a cost of \$8.9 million.

It is we, the people, who necessitate additional millions in spending on activities such as code enforcement because we let high weeds grow on our properties, abandon

junk cars or fail to maintain homes and buildings at minimum standards.

As a longtime observer of city government, I've come to realize that the amount of wasteful spending resulting from incompetence or corruption on the part of public officials is a small fraction of the budget. But for every \$1 wasted by government officials, there are doubtlessly several dollars in public spending that could be avoided if we, the people, would just do the right thing by acting as first-class, responsible citizens in obeying laws and taking care of our property. If we all did that, we wouldn't need nearly so many police, fire and code enforcement personnel, for example.

I'm not trying to claim sainthood in this regard. In my 23 years as a Fort Worth resident, I've been fined by the city on several occasions for speeding or overtime parking at a meter. (I have, however, always paid my fines promptly and without protest, because in every instance I've been guilty as charged).

The Tax Foundation declared in April that the nation's taxpayers had to "work from Jan. 1, 2000, to the 124th day of the year before earning

enough money to pay for government -- federal, state, and local -- and start spending money on themselves."

What that foundation failed to mention is that we could spend far less on government if we all would consistently act as model citizens.

For example, look at the billions of tax dollars spent on enforcement activities at the federal, state, and local levels as a result of people cheating on income taxes, violating labor laws, driving while drunk, selling drugs, or polluting the air or water.

Here's an example of a relatively new, costly program in Fort Worth that is the result of people not doing the right thing:

Since mid-1997, the city has -- at the request of thousands of residents -- installed 550 speed humps on streets. The cost to taxpayers: \$470,000.

Our wallets are collectively nearly a half million bucks lighter because of lead-footed drivers who won't slow down unless they're confronted with those jolting, annoying humps.

It is we, the people, who are inducing the expenditures for those humps -- and then complaining because government budgets just seem to keep going up.

Let me make one thing clear: I'm concerned about government inefficiency and corruption and always will be. But we also should be aware that we, the people, foment much government spending through our own lawbreaking, carelessness, indifference and laziness.

Or as cartoonist Walt Kelly famously put it in one of his 'Pogo' strips: "We have met the enemy and he is us."

Zack Z. Smith is a 'Star-Telegram' editorial writer and columnist. He can be reached at (817) 390-7724 or jzsmith@star-telegram.com.

"Magic Date" for retirement

by Fredi Franki
Social Security Manager
San Angelo office

If you've reached "full retirement age" (that's 65 for people born before 1938,

you don't have to quit working to start getting full monthly Social Security retirement benefits.

Yes, that's true. Because of a law enacted last April, you can keep on working after reaching full retirement age and not lose a penny of your Social Security retirement benefits. It's almost like having your cake and eating it, too.

But, as you know, it's not a perfect world. Because of the additional income, you'll most likely have to pay more income taxes. And we want you to enjoy getting Social Security benefits while you choose to work. We don't want you to find you owe more taxes than you expected when it's time to file your annual tax return.

That's why we're reminding you to be prepared to pay extra taxes if you're working while getting full retirement benefits. You can do that by having more deducted from your pay; filing a quarterly tax return; or having taxes withheld from your Social Security benefits.

To have taxes withheld from your benefits, call the IRS at 1-800-829-3676 to get a form W-4V, or visit SSA's Internet website, www.ssa.gov, to print a copy of the form.

You'll have to pay taxes on your benefits if you have substantial income in addition to your Social Security benefits. For example, if you file a federal tax return as an "individual" and your total income is between \$25,000 and \$34,000, 85 percent is subject to income tax.

If you file a joint return, you may have to pay taxes on 50 percent of your benefits if you and your spouse have a combined income that's between \$32,000 and \$44,000.

If your combined income is more than \$44,000, up to 85 percent of your Social Security benefit is subject to income tax.

Combined income is your (and your spouse's) adjusted gross income as reported on your Form 1040 plus nontaxable interest, plus one-half of your Social Security benefits.

Even though you have to pay more income taxes, that's not all bad. There's always the "flip" side to consider. When you continue working you could be increasing the amount of your monthly benefit. Each year, we'll review your earnings record. If you're eligible for a higher benefit because of your additional earnings, we'll send you a notice telling you that your new benefit amount will be.

If you need more information, check out our website at www.ssa.gov or visit your local Social Security office. You also can call our toll-free number 1-800-772-1213.

Blueprints demand momentum

The \$1 beef checkoff program has made plans to keep beef momentum growing even as beef producers enjoy their seventh straight quarter of upward demand. Beef demand at the end of 2000 was 3.6 percent higher than 1999 thanks to increased consumer spending and higher per-capita beef consumption, according to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. The checkoff hopes to increase demand another 6 percent through 2004 by increasing awareness of convenient new beef products, promoting beef's nutritional benefits and expanding beef exports.

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Just notify us if you are 65 or older and we'll waive the service charge.



Robert Lee State Bank

Member FDIC



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Phone 453-2545
Tele-Bank 453-2585

Jacksonville College Choir

will be in concert on

Friday, March 23rd

at 7 pm.


Pecan Baptist Church

Robert Lee

12 miles north on Hwy 158.

Everyone's Invited!

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



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FOR SALE

153 ACRES with 3 BR/1BA home. Horse pens/6 stalls.

275 +/- ACRES on Yellow Wolf Creek. COKE COUNTY

2350 +/- acres. Will divide. NORTH OF ROBERT LEE

1242 +/- acres. Will Divide.

Other Listings Available.

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453-5144 OFFICE

JOE ASH 473-0164 MOBILE
MARSHALL MILLICAN 473-0437 MOBILE
453-2554 HOME 453-9002 HOME

LATE MODEL GMC and Chevrolet pickup alternatives \$65. Installed while you wait. Warren Tomlinson 655-0362.

FOR SALE

1998 Dodge Caravan; city lots corner 16th & Chadbourne, Robert Lee. Call Ricky Ross 453-4671.

FOR SALE

160 acres (would divide). Less than four miles from Bronte. Live Oaks, 46 acres in grass fields (fenced separately), natural water. Deer, turkey, quail. (915) 473-3201.

\$369 Mo.

4 bdrm, 2 ba, s/s fridge, freezer, washer/dryer, dishwasher & much more! Call for free Brochure. 1-800-698-8003. 10% dn; 360mo/8.5apr;8pts;wac;cit.

FOR SALE BRONTE

124 Randal (behind Town & Country) 3 Bd/2 bath, garage/fenced yard. Cottonwood Real Estate, Mary Slimp, Broker. (915) 754-4081, 28b-tnc

OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN
4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, 2 story home w/acreage.

Lee Associates
453-2995

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



MARIA'S HOT TAMALES
\$6/dozen. Delivered daily each morning. Call 453-2075. 13a-tnc

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

in Robert Lee. Previously operated as a convenience/grocery store. Good location near school with highway frontage. Call 915-453-2545. 46a-tnc

ROBERT LEE 215 ZERO ST.
3 Bedroom Home located at the edge of Town! Manicured lawn with Pecan Trees! \$20's! 821 VICKI STREET

3 Bedroom, 1 bath Home with Central Heating & Cooling! Oversized Living Room. Mature pecan trees in yard! \$20's!

BRONTE 411 CUMBIE ST.
4 Bedroom 2 bath Brick Home. 2 Living Areas with Fireplace in Den. Huge insulated workshop w/bath!

402 KEY STREET
Brick 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Home! Built in cabinets & Bookshelves! Privacy Fence/Storage Bldg. Corner Lot with Mature Oak trees.

CONCHO REALTY
Becky Clendennen
Office - 653-4535
Home - 453-4748
33a-tnc

SEWING MACHINE
for sale. New Home model. 453-2995 after 6 pm. 33a-2tp

FOR SALE
1997 Ford 1/2 ton pickup. Good condition. Can see after 5:30. 453-2202. McGinley. 33a-2tp

WOW
\$288 per mo. 3 bdrm/2ba. S/W. 1-800-698-8003
10%dn;8pts;9.75apr;cpm;wac.
32b-4tc

FOR RENT

BRONTE MINI STORAGE
has storage buildings for rent. Call 473-2221. 14b-tnc

FOR RENT
2 BR mobile home w/add on. CH/CA. Total electric. Very Clean. Flanagan. 453-4359. 27a-tnc

FOR RENT
Trailer house completely furnished with central heat in Robert Lee. 944-8990. 32a-2tc

TAKING APPLICATIONS
for one, two, & three bedroom apartments. Contact Housing Authority of Robert Lee, 710 N. Bishop, 453-2912. Equal Housing Opportunity. 29a-EOW

MISC

IF ANYONE HAD ANYTHING
at Roy Robinson's to be worked on, call Larry at 473-2941. 32b-2tc

MOWERS REPAIRED
305 E. 3rd, Robert Lee. 453-2363. 32a-8tp

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

FOR RENT: THE RUG DOCTOR
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Machine
Hometown Hardware
Bronte, Texas

CIRCLE R
at Lake Spence now has bait (minnows, perch, goldfish, frozen bait). 453-9830. 33a-2tp

SUNSHINE CONSTRUCTION
New Construction, Additions, Renovations, and Home Repairs. Contact Don Parks @ 453-2860 or 450-2767 mobile. 34a-tnc

Bob Frazer's 944-0010 473-6603

Texas Best
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24 hr. Emergency Water Damage Service

TREES TRIMMED
topped or removed. Call 453-9902 after 6 pm. 37a-tnc

COMPUTERS
Complete systems, repairs, upgrades, internet. Call Ed @ EMCO Computers. 473-3004. 32b-tnc

D & L DOZER SERVICE & CUSTOM FARMING
Larry Spivey, owner-operator. PO Box 160, Bronte, Texas. Phone (915) 282-3038. 45b-tnc

THE "BARBER" SHOP
Debora England, 223 N. Lombard, Bronte. 473-4026. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9 am-6 pm. 17b-tnc

HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING
Production Workers, Bookkeepers, Dental Assistant, Computer Tech, Desktop Administrator, Nanny, Receptionists, Welders, Machine Operators, Mill Workers, CNA's & LVN's. For more info (915) 365-9133, or apply @ Demand Staff, 804 Hutchings, Ballinger, TX 76821. 32a-tnc

Hiring CNA's
All shifts, full time, part time and PRN. \$7.30/hour.
Contact Rhonda or Larry
Runnels County Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
1800 N. Broadway
Ballinger, Texas
915-365-2538

CNA'S NEEDED
for full-time & part time hours. Friendly, caring environment. Sr. Citizens Nursing Home, Winters, Tx. Contact Sarah Lee RN at 754-4566. 28b-tnc

SR. CITIZENS NURSING HOME
in Winters now hiring for full-time LVN. Nursing Home & Medicare experience preferred. Competitive Salary. Contact Sarah Lee RN at 754-4566. 33b-tnc

PART TIME POSITION
available. Applicant should be in good physical condition. Moderate lifting required. Need good hand to eye coordination. 10-20 hrs per week. Must be able to work on your own. After 5 pm, call 473-2517. 33a-1tc

PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT
needed in Robert Lee to assist aged and disabled individuals in their homes. Tasks include assistance with personal care, light housekeeping, heavy lifting, and other tasks as assigned. Hours vary according to client served. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and free of any criminal history charges. Contact Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital Home Health at (915) 235-1701 (ext. 413) or fax resume to (915) 235-1783. 33a-2tc

GARAGE SALES

MOVING SALE
Thurs. & Fri. 411 Cumbie, Bronte. Model train setup, furniture, much more. 33b-1tp

2 FAMILY
garage sale. Sat. 17th, 8-?. 3rd St. & Alamo in Robert Lee. 33a-1tp

CARD OF THANKS

WORDS CANNOT
express my sincere thanks for all the acts of kindness shown during the loss of my mother. The prayers, calls, visits, food & flowers. A special thank you to the Robert Lee Care Center for all the loving care shown to my mother, the Methodist Church women for the delicious meal, Brother Reeves for the special service & Dr. Ronnie Sims for the

beautiful music.
Robert, Dona, Kristen Holland
Carl & Jeannie Hutchison & Family
Ricky Hatch & Louise Hatch
33a-1tp

NOTICES

NOTICE OF FILING DEADLINES

The West Coke County Hospital District Board of Directors hereby gives notice of filing deadlines for the May 5, 2001 Election. Two (2) Directors will be elected for a term of two (2) years each. Candidates may file applications for inclusion on the ballot between February 20, 2001 and March 21, 2001. Applications and petitions may be obtained at Robert Lee Care Center during normal business hours, 9 am - 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Any questions may be addressed to Roger Alexander, Administrator. 32a-2tc

INFORMACION DE EL DIA FINALE PARA LOS DATOS

El Consejo De Directores del Hospital Distrito Del Condado Oeste De Coke hacen saber que el dia 5 de Mayo, 2001 sera el dia final para hacer los datos para las elecciones. Cada dos (2) directores seran elejidos para un termino de dos (2) anos. El dia 20 de Febrero, 2001 hasta el 21 de Marzo, 2001 seran los dias para que los candidatos llenen las aplicaciones; favor de incluir su nombre en las balletas. Las aplicaciones seran obtenidas de las 9 am - 5 pm en el Robert Lee Care Center. Si tienen preguntas llamen al Administrador Roger Alexander. 32a-2tc

NOTICE OF FILING DEADLINES

The Coke County Underground Water Conservation District board of Directors hereby gives notice of filing deadlines for the May 5, 2001 Election. Two (2) Directors will be elected for a term of four years each. Candidates may file applications for inclusion on the ballot between February 20, 2001 and March 21, 2001. Applications and petitions may be obtained at the District Office in the Coke County Court House during normal business hours, 8 am - 12 pm, Monday through Friday. Any questions may be addressed to Winton Milliff, General Manager. 32a-2tc

INFORMACION DEL DIA FINAL PARA LOS DATOS

El Consejo de Directores del Coke County Underground Water Conservation District hacen saber que el dia 5 de mayo, 2001 sera el dia final para hacer los datos para las elecciones. Los dos directores seran elejidos para un termino de cuatro anos. El dia 20 de Febrero, 2001, hasta el 21 de Marzo, 2001, seran los dias para que los candidatos llenen las aplicaciones; favor de incluir su nombre en la balota. Las aplicaciones seran obtenidas de las 8 am - 12 pm en la oficina de Coke County Court House. Si tienen preguntas llamen a Winton Milliff, el gerente general. 32a-2tc

NOTICES

Notice to Building Contractors

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE COKE COUNTY SAFETY REST AREA COKE COUNTY, SAN ANGELO DISTRICT, TEXAS

15 MILES SOUTHEAST OF STERLING CITY ON HWY. 87

PROJECT NO. STP 2000(302)TE
DETAIL NO. 07-76-006905024

CSJ NO. 006905024
ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST: \$1,750,000.00

BID GUARANTY: \$50,000.00

PRE-BID CONFERENCE: MARCH 22, 2001 - 1:00 PM

AT THE COKE COUNTY REST AREA ON HWY. 87

BID DATE: APRIL 4, 2001

Sealed proposals for the above reference project, will be received at the Texas Department of Transportation, 200 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas until 1:00 pm - April 4, 2001, and then publicly opened and read. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that the sealed proposal arrives at the above location and in the hands of the letting official, by the specified deadline regardless of the method chosen by the bidder for delivery.

Plans and specifications for this project will be furnished without charge to any general contractor desiring to submit a bid. Plans and specifications may be secured locally from the Texas Department of Transportation.

San Angelo District Headquarters

Attn: Dennis Wilde
4502 Knickerbocker Road
San Angelo, Tx 76904

Phone 915-947-9210. FAX 915-947-9292.

For mailing or pick up, send requests on company letterhead, by FAX to (512) 416-3080. Plans and specifications may be picked up in person at the TxDOT Riverside Annex Building, Room 406N, 150 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas.

*Plans are also available through commercial printers in Austin, Texas, at the expense of the bidder. Bidding proposal/specifications may be requested from the Construction Division, 200 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704, Phone 512-416-2496, FAX 512-416-2538 for these purchased plans.

This project is covered by Special Provision 000-2458, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise in Federal-Aid Construction and will have a DBE goal of 6%.

The contract for this work will not be awarded to any contractor or firm which is currently debarred from bidding on Texas Department of Transportation projects. No currently debarred contractors will be permitted to perform subcontract work on this project. Usual rights reserved. This project is listed on the

Electronic State Business Daily at www.marketplace.state.tx.us D47B(07-76-006905024) Coke County Safety Rest Areas.

32a-2tc

PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Robert Lee will hold a public hearing on the budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2001 and ending March 31, 2002. This hearing is for public input into the budget process. The hearing will be held at the City Hall, 6 E. 7th Street, Robert Lee, Texas on Monday, March 19, 2001 at 7:00 pm.

Garland Davis, Mayor
City of Robert Lee
33a-1tc

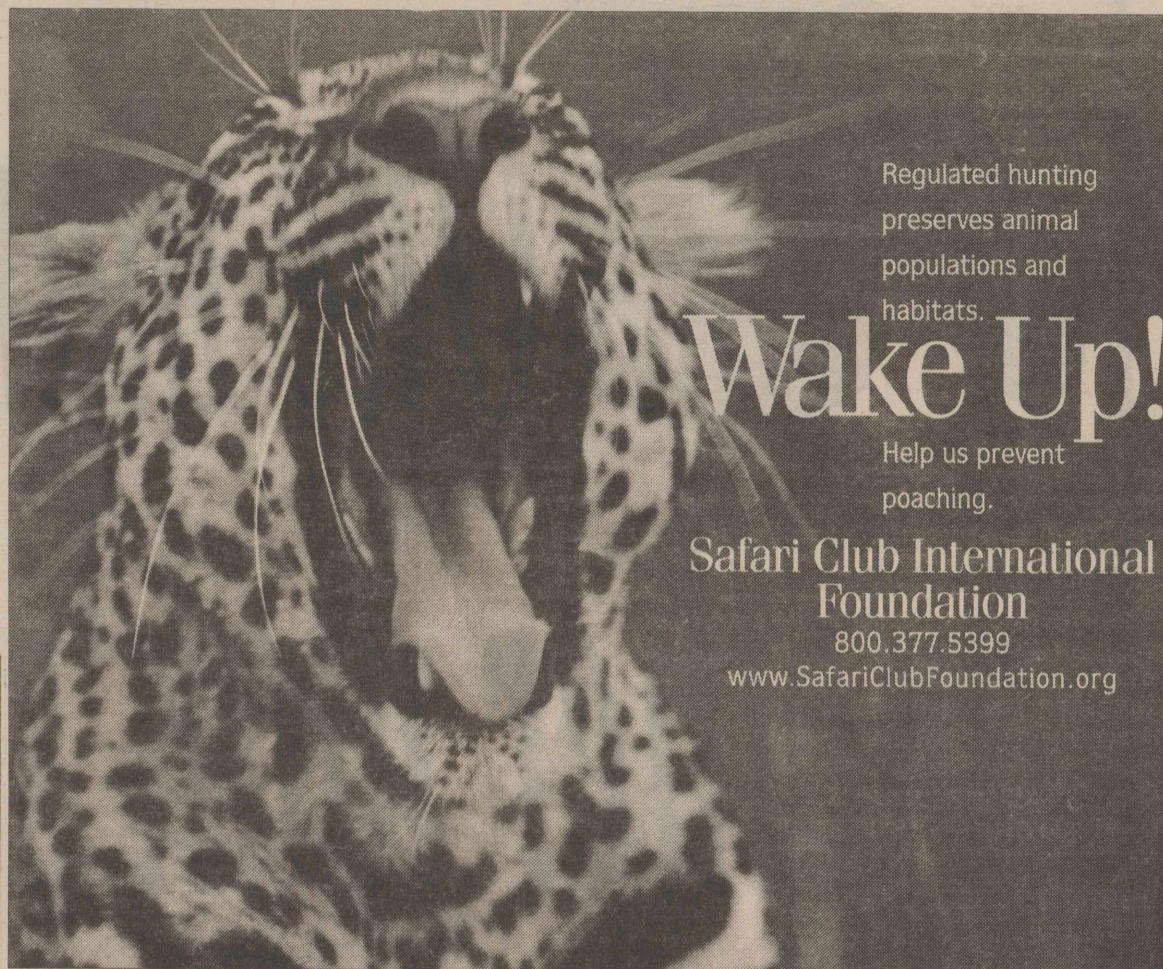
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Coalition on Donation



Regulated hunting preserves animal populations and habitats.

Wake Up!

Help us prevent poaching.

Safari Club International Foundation

800.377.5399

www.SafariClubFoundation.org

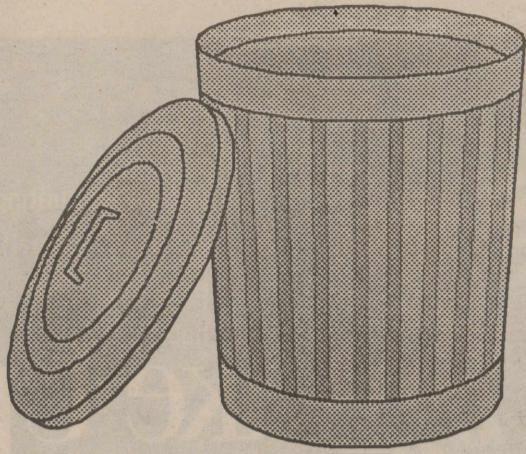
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONDUCT WEATHER MODIFICATION OPERATIONS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

Date of the first of three weekly publications of this notice: March 8, 2001, in the

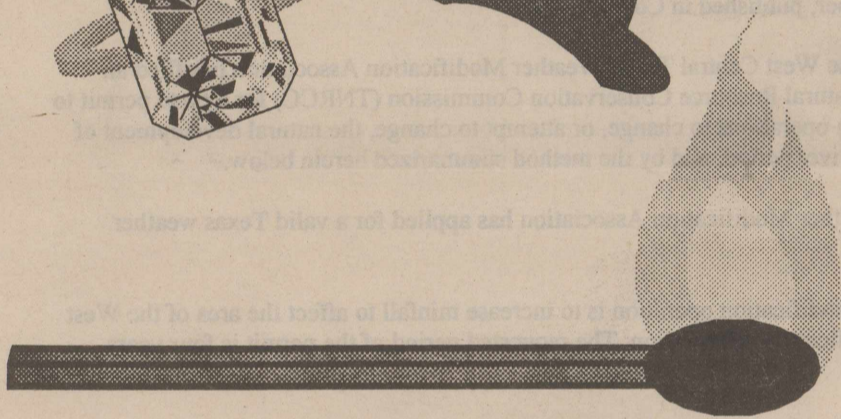
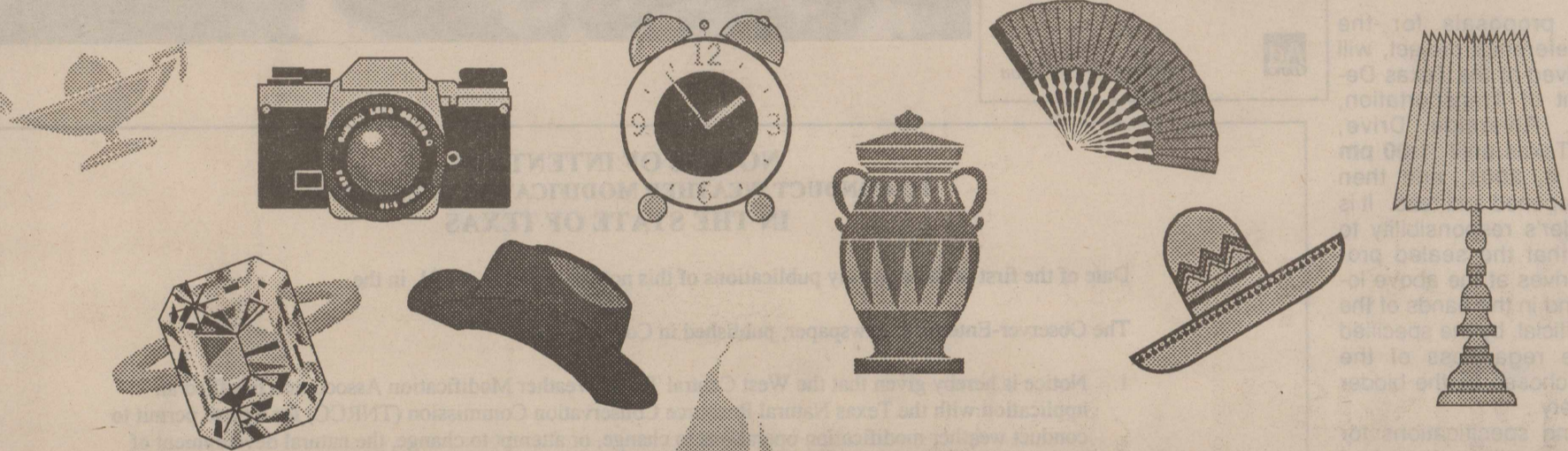
The Observer-Enterprise newspaper, published in Coke county.

1. Notice is hereby given that the West Central Texas Weather Modification Association has filed an application with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) for a State permit to conduct weather modification operations to change, or attempt to change, the natural development of clouds for the purpose, objective, period, and by the method summarized herein below.
2. The West Central Texas Weather Modification Association has applied for a valid Texas weather modification license.
3. The purpose of the weather modification operation is to increase rainfall to affect the area of the West Central Texas Weather Modification Association. The requested period of the permit is four years from April 1, 2001.
4. The purpose of the proposed weather modification operation is to increase rainfall to increase surface water runoff to streams and lakes, increase recharge of ground water, increase soil moisture for agriculture, and reduce the water demands on ground and surface water sources.
5. The proposed weather modification operation is to be carried out in both an operational area and a target area to cause the intended effects to occur only in the target area. The operational area is composed of the following counties: Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Nolan, Runnels, Taylor, Coke, Concho, Irion, McCulloch, Mitchell, Sterling, and Tom Green.
6. The area to be affected by the proposed weather modification operation is the target area. The target area is that area described by the area contained in the following counties: Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Nolan, Runnels, Taylor, and Coke County excluding the areas between Highways 208 and 158.
7. The methods and materials to be used in conducting this operation are summarized herein. A meteorologist licensed by TNRCC to conduct weather modification operations will select suitable clouds for cloud seeding using a weather radar display, standard meteorological analyses and forecast techniques, and observations to guide aircraft to initiate the release of cloud seeding particles at cloud base and into cloud tops to affect the growth and development of cumuliform clouds. The licensed meteorologist will direct one or more aircraft equipped with flare racks or generators to dispense either glaciogenic, such as silver iodide crystals, or hygroscopic seeding materials into selected clouds to perform seeding operations.
8. Persons interested in knowing more about the technical aspects of the proposed operation should contact George Bomar, MC-60, TNRCC, P.O. Box 13087, Austin TX 78711-3087, 512 239-0770.
9. A public meeting on this application may be called by mailing a petition that requests a meeting to the Executive Director, TNRCC, P.O. Box 13087, Austin TX 78711-3087. The petition must contain 1) the signature, full name, address, and phone number of each person requesting the meeting, 2) a statement that each person is at least 18 years of age and resides or owns property in the operational area, and 3) a description of each person's interest and how that interest would be adversely affected. Requests for meeting must be received by the Commission within 30 days of the last date the Notice of Intention is published in week one of the mandatory three-week period required by 289.17(j) of Commission rules. If at least 25 eligible persons make written requests, the Commission shall hold a public meeting on an application prior to issuance of a permit.

Individual members of the public who wish to inquire about the information contained in this notice, or to inquire about other agency permit applications or permitting procedures, should call the Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1 800 687-4040. For more information concerning citizen participation, contact Blas J. Coy, Jr., Public Interest Council, MC-103, TNRCC, P.O. Box 13087, Austin TX 78711-0087, 512 239-6363.

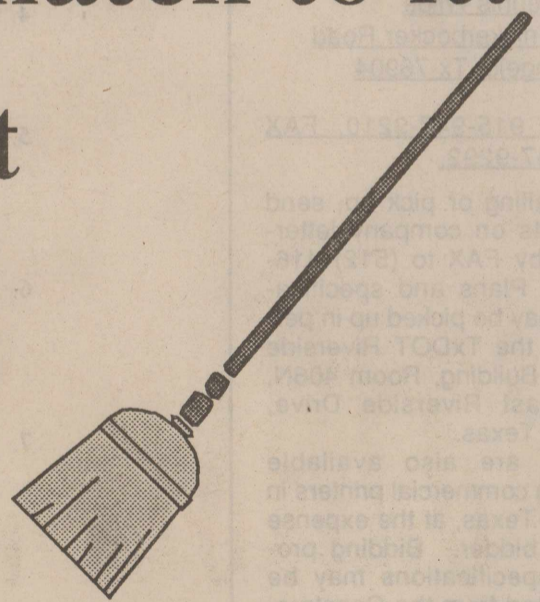


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