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Death Notices

Barnes

Johnny Burch Barnes, 56, of Blackwell died Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2003, in an Abilene hospital. Graveside service was held on Friday, Sept. 26, in Blackwell Cemetery in Blackwell. Arrangements were by McCoy Funeral Home.

Survivors include his wife, Charlotte Barnes of Blackwell; daughters, Amanda Lee and Shelly Barnes, both of San Angelo; stepdaughters, Deecie Holland and Traci Slaughter, both of Blackwell; and stepson, Billy Hindman of Kerrville.

Cobb

Ann Williams Cobb, 57, of San Angelo passed away Sunday, Sept. 21, 2003, at her residence.

Family visitation was held on Tuesday, Sept. 23, at Robert Massie Funeral Home. Graveside service was conducted at 10 am, Wednesday, Sept. 24, in Fairview Cemetery in Bronte, with Frank Berthold of the Church of Christ officiating.

Survivors are her mother, Itha Mae Williams of San Angelo; sister, Jean Carroll and husband, Dick, of San Angelo and Neva Fisher and husband, Art, of Alamogordo, NM; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Taylor

Jackie Taylor, 78, died Saturday, Sept. 27, 2003, in Robert Lee Care Center. Memorial service was at 10:30 am Sept. 30, at Chadbourne North Church of Christ. Arrangements were by Shaffer Funeral Home.

Survivors include her husband, Idos Taylor; daughters, Patricia McCrohan of Lockhart and Connie Motley of San Angelo; and brother, Don Conner of Artesia, NM.

Report of the "Quilting Women"

by Ava Lou Davis

Listed below are some more stories and letters concerning some of the original "quilting women" of the Robert Lee United Methodist Church.

Willie Bell Clark was born November 4, 1898 in Stockdale, TX. Her parents were Will and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Bell. In March, 1899, when Willie was only four months old, she began a trip in a covered wagon with her parents and four sisters. They were headed for Coke County and arrived in Robert

Lee about two weeks later on April 1. Will and Lizzie loved their five daughters so much, they had five more daughters, all born in Robert Lee. One sister died that first year in Robert Lee; so Willie grew up with eight sisters.

Willie was a Robert Lee High School graduate. She married Freeman Clark on May 30, 1920. They had one daughter, Carleen, born on May 20, 1925. On November 28, 1945, Carleen married Bill Craddock. They presented Willie and Freeman with two grandchildren: Ann Craddock Wells and Frank Craddock. Still later, they were proud to have six great-grandchildren. Willie died April 28, 1981 at the age of 82.

Willie was a joyful Christian and a life-long Methodist. She was an active member of WMU and part-time teacher of the women's Sunday School class. She was also a member of Eastern Star and the Garden Club.

When Willie passed away, we celebrated her life at her beloved First Methodist Church in Robert Lee. The Rev. John Reynolds told of visiting the Robert Lee Nursing Home and looking up to see "prissy Willie flitting down the hall in her favorite high heel shoes." And she took time to spread her joy to every resident in the home.

We had a Bilbo Sisters session about Aunt Willie: Jo Ann remembers that Willie's feet were so small, we could wear her high heels to play dress-up and they fit! Janet remembers Willie's delightful giggle and how she would pop into our house when we were home for a visit. She was usually carrying a cake or a pie for us!

Jo Ann and Alta Bell remember that Aunt Willie capably directed the rehearsals for both of their weddings. I remember that she furnished the wedding cake for my wedding reception (Freeman had promised me a wedding cake years before), and helped see that everything was ready before the guests arrived.

Alta Bell also remembers how Willie gave her daughter, Carleen, a theme birthday party every year, took pictures, and put them in a special album. Alta Bell remembers looking in the album to see how she had changed from year to year. This inspired her to do birthday parties for her two children, take pictures, and keep albums.

One special memory Carleen told me: her mother would bake cupcakes before Easter, and they would drive to all the elderly and

shut-ins homes. Carleen would then deliver the gifts of love.

Willie and Freeman opened their lovely home and beautiful grounds to all the family for many Bell family reunions and Grammy and Papa's 50th wedding anniversary.

Lura Smith's maiden name was Lura Vowell. She married Monte Trimble, and they farmed out in the Edith community. Monte and Lura Trimble homesteaded on part of J. J. S. Smith's ranch on the Pecan Creek (Pecan Creek runs into the Colorado River.) Part of Pecan Creek was on J. J. S. Smith's ranch.

Monte and Lura Trimble had six children starting with the oldest: Curtis, Verna, Josie, Alma, Jack, and Edward the youngest.

According to Willie Trimble Foreman, Curtis Trimble's wife, Lura was the sweetest lady. She said she was like a mother to her and she couldn't have had a better mother-in-law.

Monte Trimble died in 1936 and was buried at Paint Creek Cemetery. Lura Trimble married Monte Trimble's half brother J. J. S. Smith in 1938. They lived on his ranch at Edith for several years.

On Friday, December 5, 1941, after school I (Ava Davis) rode the bus with my friend Doris Woodmansee, Lura Smith's granddaughter, to J. J. S. Smith's ranch. That night after our evening meal, they wanted me to read from the Bible, as I was a guest in their home. I can't remember the scripture, but it was in Matthew. The next morning my cousin, Jane Cumbie drove out in her dad's Roadmaster Buick and told me my brother, Jack Deen Tubb was killed in an automobile accident with two other boys. The other boys were Jackie Boy Latham and Loyd Higgins. I remember Mrs. Smith was so kind to me.

After "Uncle Scrib", as everyone called him, died, Lura Smith moved into town on Euel and 17th Streets. When she had a stroke in 1964, Curtis Trimble and wife, Willie, moved in with her and took care of her. Mrs. Smith is buried at Paint Creek Cemetery.

Mrs. and Mrs. Smith were faithful members of the Methodist Church in Robert Lee.

The preceding was submitted by Willie Trimble Foreman and written by Ava Davis.

I have fond memories of **Mary Stubblefield Russell**. She was my first grade teacher and that alone makes her special. She taught me to read and write and so much more. She gave a good start

in school to hundreds of Robert Lee children.

Mrs. Russell coached me in "story-telling" for the County meet. My story was "Billy Goat Gruff." I was in the end-of-school operetta, "What's the Matter with Sally?" Mrs. Russell was one of the directors, and I was Sally.

Mary Stubblefield and her sister came to Robert Lee to teach in about 1926. They were from Liberty Hill. Mary had a B.S. degree from Daniel Baker College in Brownwood. Mary met Bailey Russell here and they were married in 1927.

From the information I could find, I think that Mrs. Russell taught school in Robert Lee for at least 16 years (1926-1942). I also have memories of Mrs. Russell and her husband, Bailey, at the First Methodist Church.

(Submitted by Jamie Bilbo Boren)

Rally Day in Bronte

Do you like pancakes? Do you want to meet the U.M. Puppeteers? Do you love Jesus?

If you answered yes to any of these questions - you will want to be at the Rally Day on Sunday, October 5, at Bronte's First United Methodist Church. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall with assembly to follow at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary. Sunday School begins at 9:30 am and Worship Service at 10:45 am. Along with children's Sunday School classes are two Adult classes. Adult I is studying "Parables and Prophecies". Adult II is studying "Using Your Money Wisely" by Larry Burkett.

Everyone is welcome to join the fun and fellowship. For more information, please call 473-3281.

Bronte City Council asks help from residents

Residents should be aware that mosquitoes carrying the West Nile fever have been found in Taylor County (Abilene).

The Bronte City Council urges all residents to make sure there is no standing water on their property that would be a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Residents should also keep their property mowed. This will help with the control of the mosquitoes.

The City will continue spraying for mosquitoes when weather conditions are favorable.

Bronte animal ordinance told

Bronte residents are reminded to keep their animals restrained on their property at all times. The city can

issue citations to persons who violate the City's Animal Ordinance.

SA Writers' Club news

In place of their usual monthly evening meeting, the San Angelo Writers' Club will hold a special Dutch-treat luncheon and meeting at noon, Saturday, October 11, at the Golden Corral, 1601 Knickerbocker Road, San Angelo.

Anyone interested in writing, whether or not a published author, is invited to attend. For more information, call Barbara Barton at 949-7303.

SAGHS meeting

The next San Angelo Genealogical & Historical Society meeting will be held at 7:30 pm, Tuesday, October 7th, at "First Place" across the street from First Baptist Church, 37 E. Harris Avenue, San Angelo.

Mr. Dale Herring of Talpa, Texas, will be the guest speaker. For many years, Dale has been doing research on "circuit-riding preachers" in West Texas, and he will be sharing this research with the Society. There will be a question and answer period after he speaks and refreshments will follow. Guests are welcome.

Churches of Coke County

Invite You to Worship

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 United Methodist Church
 PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne
 Robert Lee

(325) 453-2417
 Rev. Steve Rowe, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am Sunday School
 11 am Worship

Wed. 7 pm Choir

Iglesia Bautista Bethel
 101 Houston • Robert Lee
 (325) 453-5003 • 453-2296

Pastor: Basilio Esquivel
 Sun. 9:45, 11:00, & 11:30 am
 & 6 pm, Wednesday 7 pm

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) 453-4645

Rev. Dale Patterson, 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

(325) 482-0663

Sun. 10:00 am, Sunday School

11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship

Victory Assembly of God

PO Box 638 • 6th & Houston
 Robert Lee

(325) 453-2208

Rev. Erma Johnson, Pastor

Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School

10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship

Wed. 6 pm, Prayer Meeting

Happy 20th Anniversary



Mom
&
Dad

Love,
Michelle
& Billy

Chicago Cubs have Robert Lee connection

Chicago Cub fans are excited about the baseball play-offs since the Cubs clinched the central National League division last week-end. Many locals don't know of the Cubs' Robert Lee connection.

The team's pitching ace, Kerry Wood, is the grandson of Pat Jones Watson, Coke County native, who recently moved back to Robert Lee. Woods, 25, was drafted by the Cubs and soon named Rookie of the Year. He is back on track after having elbow surgery. A big guy, 6'5" and 240 lbs., he was scheduled to start for Chicago against the Braves in Atlanta Tuesday night in the first round of the playoffs.



Melvin and Debbie McCabe of Robert Lee would like to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their son, Andrew H. McCabe, to Brandi Nichole Bales, daughter of Pat and Sherry Bales of San Angelo. The couple will be married December 13, 2003, at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Wall.

The bride-elect is a graduate of San Angelo Central High School and received an associate's degree in art in 2000 from Howard College and is attending Angelo State University.

The prospective groom is a graduate of Robert Lee High School and is a candidate for May graduation from Angelo State University.

Andrew's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jodie Week of San Angelo, Ray and Dolores McCabe Seale of Robert Lee, and the late Fred McCabe, Jr. His great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Rogers of Carlsbad and the late Mr. and Mrs. Fred McCabe, Sr.

Brandi is the granddaughter of Margie (Mambo) Meehan of Nacogdoches, Texas.

Robert Lee; John Service of Higgins, Texas, and Truda Service of Victoria, Texas. His great-grandparents are Gene and Gloria Alexander of Ganado, Texas, J. W. and Ida Belle Service of Robert Lee. He also has a special great-great aunt, Loreen Pace, of Peoria, Arizona. Aunts and uncles welcoming Justin include Scott and Michelle Service of Ganado, Texas, Jeramy and Jeanne McIntosh of Victoria, Texas, Eric and Jennifer Estrada of Ganado, Texas.

FSA holding LAP program sign-up

Coke and Sterling Counties have been approved for the LAP program. Both counties qualified for years 2001 and 2002. However, a producer is only eligible for payment in one year. In determining which year to sign up for, a producer would want to use the year in which he/she had the most livestock.

The starting date to begin a livestock count in Coke County is May 1st of either

year and the ending date is November 26th, of either year used. In Sterling County the beginning and ending dates are May 1st through November 25th.

Because LAP payments will be factored, no payments will be issued until after sign up has ended and Washington has determined the factor...The final date to sign up for the program is October 24th. There will be no late-filed applications allowed since all sign-up information will be forwarded to Washington as soon as sign up ends for the factor calculation.

Time is running out for this sign up. Less than 20 producers from Coke County and Sterling have signed up for LAP. Producers need to make an appointment today and get this done. Don't wait until the last minute and then forget to sign up.

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

**Check Out
Coke Co.
Library**

The Coke County Library will be the scene for several of the events of the Street Affair on the morning of Saturday, October 4.

The Dessert Cook-off will be just inside the library. Proceeds from the sale of the entries will go to the library. Some of the money will be used to purchase refrigerator magnets which will show the Coke County Library's hours, address and phone number.

Also at the library will be the '64 Study Club and their breakfast burrito sale. Money from this sale is used by the club for their scholarship fund.

Another area of the library porch will be used by the Coke County Historical Commission and the pre-sale of Bonita Copeland's A History of the Old Coke County Jail and Sheriffs With Related Facts and Tales. The book is expected out at the end of the month. The proceeds from the sale of the book will be used for the restoration of the Old Jail. This book preserves Coke County History from the late 1800's to the present. The book will be here in time for Christmas giving.

Library hours are Tuesdays, 8-12; Wednesdays, 8-4; Thursdays, 1-5; Fridays, 8-12. Books may be returned to the Main Street Market in Bronte and the 24/7 book-drop on the porch of the library.



**Look
Who's
New!**

Justin Phillip Millegan

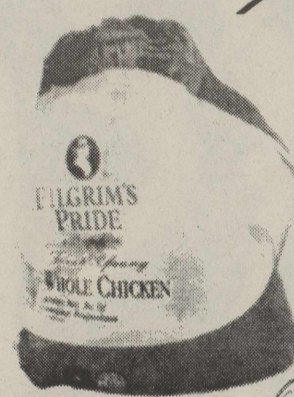
Justin Phillip Millegan arrived September 21, 2003, at Condell Medical Center in Libertyville, Illinois. Justin weighed 8 pounds, 10.5 ounces and was 20 inches long. He is the son of Matthew and Jamie Millegan. Matthew is a 2002 RLHS graduate currently serving in the United States Navy. Justin's grandparents are Lewis and Susan Millegan of

Welcome to the
Robert Lee Street Affair
Saturday, October 4
Downtown Robert Lee
Arts & Crafts Booths • Food Booths
Quilt Show • Art Show
Antique Car & Motorcycle Show
Music by Driftwood
Little Miss/Mister Pageant
Dessert Cook-Off
Chicken Roping
Barbecue • Street Dance

SUPER H

Texas Lotto Tickets Sold Here
WIC Cards Welcome
ATM Available

501 Commerce - Robert Lee, TX
Store Hrs: Mon.-Sat. 8-8 Sun. 8-6
SPECIALS GOOD 10/1 Thru 10/7
LIMIT RIGHTS RESERVED



Pilgrim's Pride
Grade "A"

**Whole
Fryers**

2 Lb. / \$1

Shurfine
**Meat
Wieners**
2 12 oz. / \$1
pkg.

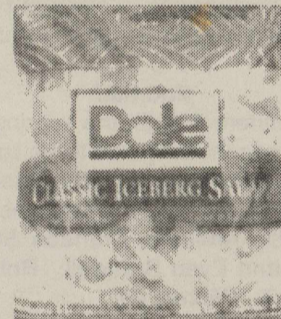


Shur Saving 2 Ply White
Paper Towels

3 Reg. / \$1
Rolls

Dole Classic
**Iceberg
Salad**

2 1 Lb. / \$1
Pkg.



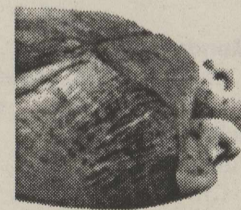
Shur Saving
Select Group
Vegetables

4 14-15.25 / \$1
oz. cans



Fresh Red Ripe Roma
Tomatoes
2 Lb. / \$1

Fresh Boston Butt
Pork Roast



or
Family Pack Meaty Pork Shoulder
Country Style



Pork Ribs
Lb. **\$1.00**

ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS



The 2003 Robert Lee High School Homecoming court included (from left) Rachel Wallace, Shannon Honse, Brittany Soliz, Julia Cruz, Jennifer Fluhmann, Jessica Fluhmann, and Monica Rodriguez. The court was announced during halftime of the 2003 RLHS Homecoming game September 12 against Garden City.

Steers vs: Winters

by Tom Sawyer
1st half

The Steers opened up the game with their only score on a nice 36-yard touchdown pass from Brandon Soliz to Omar Saucedo. Ruben Torres made good on the extra point kick. Winters scored one rushing touchdown followed by 3 passing touchdowns to close out the first half. Robert Lee 7 - Winters 27

2nd half

Winters had all the scoring in the second half with three rushing touchdowns. The Steers had some nice interceptions by Phillip Arellano, Brandon Soliz (2) and Evan Braswell. Robert Lee 7 - Winters 49

The Steers are off this week and start district games next week against Roscoe. Everyone come out and support the Steers next week.

RLISD schedules public forum

Robert Lee ISD will hold a public forum on Tuesday, October 7, 2003, at 7:00 pm in the school cafeteria. The purpose of the meeting is to give community members an opportunity to express their opinion regarding six man and eleven man football. For additional information concerning this meeting, please contact Lindsey Wallace or Jill Lankford at 453-4555.

RLHS Project Graduation meeting

All parents of Robert Lee High School seniors are invited to attend a Project Graduation 2004 meeting on Monday, October 6, 2003 at 7:00 pm in the high school library. For additional information, please contact Sara Cruz at 453-4345.

Dogies win against Winters 8-0

The Dogies received the opening kickoff and returned it out to their 42. They could not manage to get a 1st down and were forced to punt. Winters took over on their 33 but were also held and forced to punt on 4th. The Dogies started on their 33 and drove down to the 12, but were held and turned it over on downs. Winters was forced to punt again and this time the Dogies started at Winters 44. The Dogies were held on 4th at Winters 42 and Winters drove to the Dogies 41 as the 1st half ended with no score.

The Dogies kicked off in the 2nd half and Winters returned it to their 28. The Dogies held and on 4th, Josh Gallegos blocked the punt and took over at Winters 18. The Dogies drove to the 2 but were held on 4th and Winters took over at their 3 yard line. Winters was forced to punt once again and the Dogies

started their next possession at Winters 23. This time the Dogies scored on a pass from Landry Gunter to Josh Gallegos with 58 seconds left in the game, and Cameron Hodge added the 2 point conversion to make it 8-0. After the kick, Josh Gallegos intercepted a pass on 2nd down to preserve the win. The Dogies will host Roscoe on October 9th.

Girl Scout fundraiser slated

The West Texas Girl Scout Council is pleased to present their Fall Product Program and Sale. The sale of a variety of nut products and GSUSA calendars in two sizes began on September 12, and is much more than a fundraiser. It is designed to teach valuable life skills in goal setting, long term planning, as well as budgeting and other money matters. It teaches girls important safety and communication skills and is often helpful in improving self-esteem.

All of the money raised in this program stays within the council's jurisdiction, which covers a large amount of West Texas including Coke County. The funds help troops purchase supplies, finance trips and outings, and purchase badges and other awards. The council uses the profit to provide girls with activities, train adult volunteers, and maintain the local facilities.

If you cannot find a Girl Scout in your area, please call the West Texas Girl Scout Council program center at (325) 670-0432.

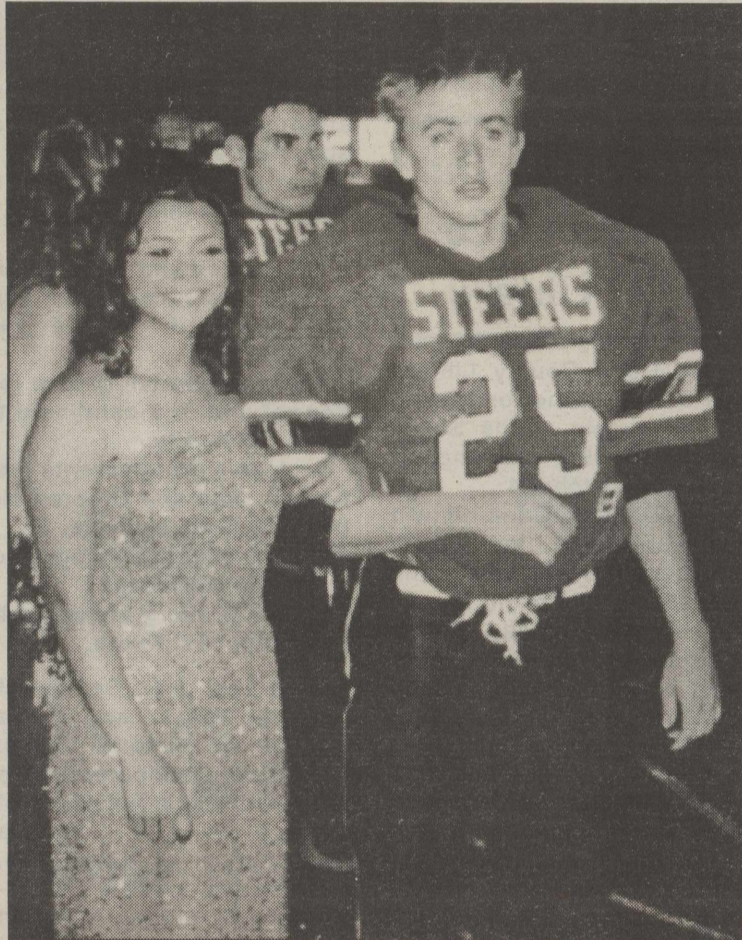
Youth and tobacco

Did you know that nicotine is as addictive as alcohol, cocaine, and heroin? Cigarette smoking is the most common form of drug addiction causing more death and disease than other addictions combined.

It is also proven that the younger a person starts to smoke the more likely they are to become addicted to nicotine, and 40% of teenagers who smoke daily have tried to quit and failed.



Crowned 2003 Homecoming Queen and King for Robert Lee High School were Rachel Wallace and Phillip Rangel. The announcement was made during halftime of the 2003 RLHS Homecoming game September 12 against Garden City.



Crowned Mr. and Miss RLHS for 2003 were Monica Rodriguez and Cole Flanagan. The announcement was made during halftime of the 2003 RLHS Homecoming game September 12 against Garden City.



School Menu

Breakfast

Monday, Oct. 6

Juice, muffin, cereal, milk

Tuesday, Oct. 7

Juice, breakfast pizza, cereal, milk

Wed., Oct. 8

Juice, cinnamon roll, cereal, milk

Thurs., Oct. 9

Juice, pop tart, cereal, milk

Friday, Oct. 10

Juice, biscuit, sausage, cereal, milk

Lunch

Monday, Oct. 6

Bean chalupa, cheese, salad, Spanish rice, pears, chocolate pudding, milk

Tuesday, Oct. 7

Chicken strips, gravy, macaroni & cheese, green beans, roll, pineapple, milk

Wed., Oct. 8


Frito pie, cheese, corn, salad, peaches, milk

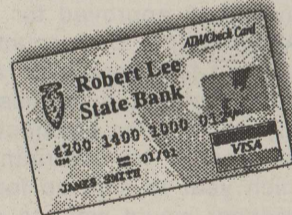
Thurs., Oct. 9

Corn dogs, chips, broccoli/carrots with dip, fresh fruit, milk

Friday, Oct. 10

Chicken patty on bun, tator tots, pickles, fruit cocktail, milk

Wherever you go...
take us along!



Robert Lee State Bank is offering a brand new way to access your checking account - with the Robert Lee State Bank Visa Check Card. Use it to purchase goods and services at millions of Visa merchant locations and 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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FDIC

BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS



The 2003 Bronte High School Homecoming Court included (from left) Corin Garcia, Homecoming Queen; C. J. Macon, Band Sweetheart; Ashley Torres, Duchess; Natalee Reed, Football Sweetheart; Britney McCutchen, Duchess; Kanah Coalson, Duchess; and Kailey Howell, Duchess.

Horns take the bite out of the Bulldogs

The Bronte Longhorns ruined the Eden Bulldogs Homecoming Friday night with an impressive 34-6 victory. The Longhorns dominated in every area of the game, offensively, defensively, and special teams. With the victory, Bronte moved to 4-0 on the year.

Bronte out gained the Bulldogs 255 yards to 122 yards. Scoring for Bronte was as follows:

School Menu

Breakfast

- Monday, Oct. 6**
Cereal, sliced peaches, cinnamon toast, milk
- Tuesday, Oct. 7**
Breakfast burrito, assorted juice, milk
- Wed., Oct. 8**
Pop tart, assorted juice, teddy grams, milk
- Thurs., Oct. 9**
Scrambled eggs, hashbrowns, toast, jelly, milk
- Friday, Oct. 10**
Blueberry muffins, assorted juice, biscuit, jelly, milk

Lunch

- Monday, Oct. 6**
Pizza, tossed salad, sweet corn, rice krispie bar, milk
- Tuesday, Oct. 7**
Steak fingers with gravy, creamed potatoes, green beans, roll, jello, milk
- Wed., Oct. 8**
Taco salad, lettuce & tomato, pinto beans, Spanish rice, chips, pink panther cake, milk
- Thurs., Oct. 9**
Pigs in a blanket, macaroni & cheese, tator tots, apple crisp, milk
- Friday, Oct. 10**
Sub. sandwich, sliced turkey and cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickle, orange half, bun, chips, sugar cookies, milk

1st quarter
Garrett Fiveash - 24 yard run (Fiveash kick) 7-0
Fiveash - 20 yard run (kick failed) 13-0

2nd quarter
Cody Lee pass to Riley Coalson 14 yards. (2 point conversion) 21-0

4th quarter
BJ Hall - 51 yard punt return (Fiveash kick) 28-6 - Fiveash 3 yard run (kick failed) 34-6

The Longhorn defense forced 4 Eden turnovers and held them to 63 yards rushing. The defense was led in tackles by Chase Williams with 9, Justin Moore 7, and BJ Hall had 6.

The Longhorns will play Hamlin at Bronte tonight. Wear your maroon and come out and support the Longhorns.

Shorthorns run over Bullpups

The Bronte Shorthorn football team defeated the Eden Bullpups 20-0. Scoring:

1st quarter
Matthew Allen - 27 yard run, 2 point conversion failed

Bret Wills - 46 yard run, 2 point conversion failed

4th quarter

Bret Wills - 40 yard run, Gus Saunders 2 point conversion good

The Shorthorn offense and defense played an excellent game. Offensively they moved the ball and defensively holding Eden to very few yards. The next Shorthorn game will be at 5 pm Oct. 2nd in Hamlin.

Lady Longhorn volleyball results

The Bronte Lady Longhorn's varsity volleyball team rattled the Wildcats in the district opener with scores of 17-25, 27-25, 26-28, 25-19 and 15-13.

Individual stats were: McCutchen 35 assists, 1 ace, 9 kills, 2 blocks; Howell 21 kills, 1 block, 1 ace; Coalson 14 kills, 1 block, 1 ace; Rawlings 6 kills; Garcia 2 kills, 1 ace, 1 assist; Martinez 3 aces and Webb 1 kill.

The district record stands at 1-0 with an overall record of 9-18.



Crowned Homecoming Queen and King during halftime of the 2003 Bronte High School Homecoming game against Rotan September 12, were Corin Garcia and Tyson Baker. Crystal Billbrey was the flower bearer and Colby Lee was the crown bearer.



Crowned Football Sweetheart during halftime of the 2003 Bronte High School Homecoming game against Rotan September 12, was Natalee Reed. She was escorted by Justin Frazee. Brady Knight was the flower bearer and T. J. White was the crown bearer.

Coach Bo was very proud of how they fought the entire two hours and 15 minutes of battle with intensity and confidence.

The varsity lost to Monahans with scores of 8-25, 11-25 and 8-25. Individual stats were: McCutchen 3 kills, 5 assists; Coalson 3 kills and Rawlings 2 kills.

The Bronte JV lost to

Monahans with scores of 9-25 and 10-25. Individual stats were: Johnson 1 ace, 1 kill; Rawlings 1 kill; Cooper 1 kill and Mirelez 2 assists.

The JV lost to Water Valley with scores of 25-27, 20-25 and 18-25. Individual stats were: Johnson 2 kills; Gibbs 3 aces; Mirelez 3 kills, 5 assists and Cooper 5 kills and 3 assists.

BRONTE ALL SPORTS BOOSTER (BASB) CLUB SALE

- LONGHORN MAROON MESS DRESS CAPS ... \$15
- LONGHORN STONE-WASHED MAROON CAPS ... \$10
- LONGHORN FAN YARD SIGNS ... \$10
- LONGHORN PERSONALIZED COWBELLS ... \$5

ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL
SATURDAY EVENING • OCTOBER 18, 2003

THESE ITEMS MAY BE PURCHASED AT HOME GAMES (FRIDAY NIGHT VS. HAMLIN) AT THE GATE OR BY CALLING RANDY SPRINGER (473-7018), ALISA WEBB (473-2811), MICKEY EHL (282-2083), BECKY WILLS (282-2238), GLORIA ALLEN (AT SCHOOL), OR KENNY WHITE (WE ALL KNOW HOW TO GET A HOLD OF HIM).

Dance Under The Stars!

Saturday October 11

Santa Fe

Tickets \$5

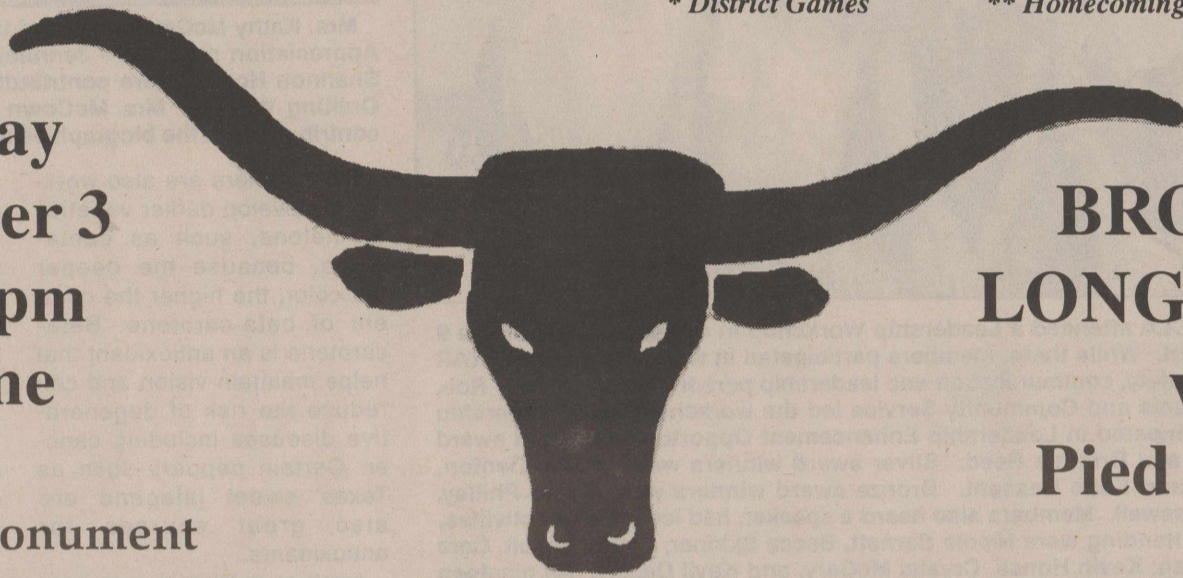
You're Invited to Join Us For An Old Fashioned Prairie Dance at Fort Chadbourne as Part Of Los Comancheros Run Motorcycle Rally 10 Miles North of Bronte on Hwy 277

Ticket Sales Begin at 7 p.m. —Dance 8 p.m.
Benefiting GOODWILL—WEST TEXAS

BRONTE LONGHORNS FOOTBALL

					BHS
August 29	May	There	7:30	53	0
September 5	Christoval	There	7:30	7	6
** September 12	Rotan	Here	7:30	26	12
September 19	Open				
September 26	Eden	There	7:30	34	6
October 3	Hamlin	Here	7:30		
* October 10	Sterling City	Here	7:30		
* October 17	Roby	There	7:30		
* October 24	Miles	Here	7:30		
* October 31	Roscoe	Here	7:30		
* November 7	Robert Lee	There	7:30		
* District Games	** Homecoming				

Friday
October 3
7:30 pm
Home



BRONTE
LONGHORNS
VS.
Pied Pipers

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Rock Solid
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Key Feed Store
C & H Auto Parts
& Hardware
Bell Auto Body Shop
Doug Bell
George & Jimmie Snapp
Coke Co. Commissioner Pct. 4
Wackenhut Corrections
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Bronte Health
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B&K Deer Processing
& Taxidermy
Hall's Super Save Foods
Coke County
Comm. Pct. 2
Bill & Jane Wheat

Handwritten signatures and names with numbers:
 Coach Bedford
Coach Fine
Coach Rauls
Soh Bent #40
Bent Bent #60
Bent Bent #10
Mason Jackson #28
Riley #52
D.J. #20 Brittain
Riley #45
Coach Peterson
Cody #30
Joseph #71
Ehl #50
#12
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The Robert Lee chapter of FCCLA attended a Leadership Workshop in Coleman. There were 9 schools and 135 students present. While there, members participated in workshops about STAR events, leadership roles, traffic safety, communication and leadership personalities. Lindsey Roe, Region II Vice President of Projects and Community Service led the workshop about leadership personalities. Nine students competed in Leadership Enhancement Opportunities. Gold award winners were Michele Sanchez and Brettie Reed. Silver award winners were Stacey Denton, Kelsey Duncan, Cassidy Wink, and Katie Bessent. Bronze award winners were Sarah Phillely, Jaden Alexander, and Andra Brasswell. Members also heard a speaker, had ice breaker activities, and ate pizza. Other members attending were Nicole Barnett, Becca Skinner, Casey Nesbit, Cara Eaton, Brittany Soliz, Kyla Millican, Kevin Honse, Crystal McGary, and Kayli Dickey. All nineteen members enjoyed the meeting and are looking forward to the Region II meeting in February. They were sponsored by Sheri Millican.

Lady Shorthorn volleyball results

The Bronte Lady Shorthorns have seen lots of volleyball action in the past week. Both the "A" and "B" teams competed in the Colorado City Middle School tournament this past weekend. Although the Lady Shorthorns did not finish in the Championship, there were many exceptional games. Individual performances included kills, serving aces, and defensive rallies. Standouts for each team includes Holly Huskerson, Terrah Macon, Emily Austin, Savannah Martinez, Nicole Reed, and Ariel Coalson.

The Lady Shorthorns continued regular season play on Monday in Water Valley. The "B" team worked especially hard to bounce back after a long weekend of volleyball. The match took three long games but the Shorthorns could not pull it together. Although it was a loss, there is no denying that these young ladies are learning and improving each week. Nicole Reed had several ace serves, kills, and defensive digs. Ariel Coalson played excellent backline defense, and Lora Martinez received serve with few errors.

The "A" team Shorthorns also met Water Valley in competition Monday night and ended the evening with a decisive two game victory. In both games, the Lady Horns attacked the ball with offensive aggressiveness and had very few defensive errors. Marcy McMorris and Stephanie Flores were awesome on defense, never letting anything past their back row play. Casey Harris was relentless at the net with two kills and a tip. Savannah Martinez was also a huge factor offensively as she stacked up four kills including the game/match winner. Her kills were a culmination of near perfect setting by Emily Austin

and Holly Huskerson.

The Lady Shorthorns will have an open date next week but will be back in action again on October 13 in Sterling City.

Onions are top Texas produce crop

By Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

Can you guess the number one vegetable crop in Texas? Corn? Potatoes? Carrots?

You may be surprised to learn the onion is Texas' top produce crop, with more than 15,000 acres harvested every year. But onions are just one of more than 45 types of produce grown in Texas, the nation's third largest producer of fruits and vegetables. With all these homegrown varieties to choose from, there's no excuse for not eating healthy.

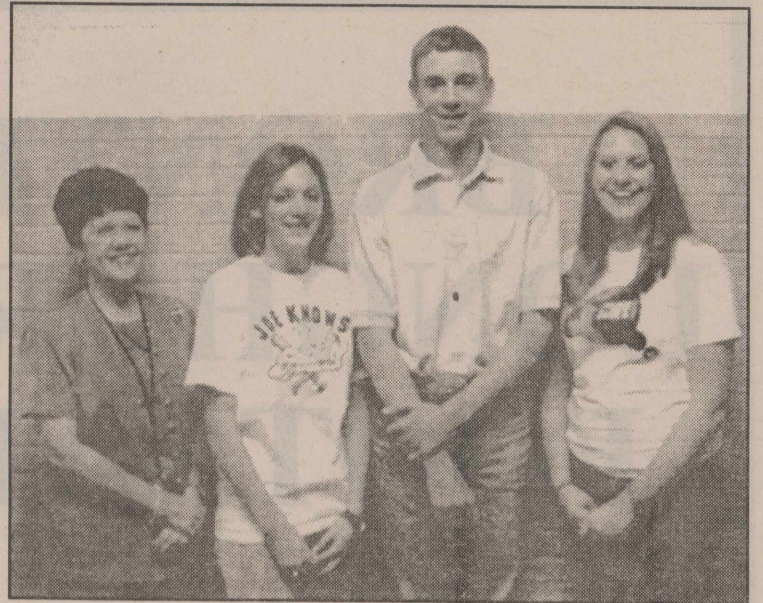
For thousands of years humans have relied on plants for sustenance as well as to cure and prevent diseases. However, as our lifestyles have become increasingly busy, too often we opt for fast food rather than consuming fresh fruits and vegetables. Such habits can deprive our bodies of certain vitamins and minerals that are essential to maintaining good health. Scientific evidence suggests one-third of cancer deaths are diet-related and today medical

professionals are refocusing their efforts toward preventing disease through diet and exercise rather than treating disease with drugs and surgery.

Speaking of onions, did you know that the sweet onion is our official state vegetable? The famous 1015 Sweet Onion, developed at Texas A&M University, is so sweet and mild it was voted the sweetest tasting onion in a national competition - and it is tearless.

Potatoes are another crop abundant in Texas. More than 500 million pounds of red, white and russet potatoes are grown each year in Texas. Potatoes are high in potassium, an important mineral in helping your bones retain the calcium they need to stay strong.

Another vegetable, developed and enhanced through research with health in mind, is the 'BetaSweet' maroon carrot available in some areas. Again, it was Texas A&M's Vegetable Improvement Center which created this carrot containing 40 percent more beta-carotene than average carrots. Of course, if this had been developed at my alma mater, The University of Texas, we would have left the carrots burnt orange as nature intended.



Mrs. Kathy McCown (left) and three of her Advanced Computer Appreciation students - Jennifer Fluhmann, Jake McCabe, and Shannon Honse, were contributing editors for the book on the Quilting Women. Mrs. McCown deserves credit for her major contribution on the biographies and art work.

Researchers are also working to develop darker varieties of melons, such as cantaloupe, because the deeper the color, the higher the content of beta-carotene. Beta-carotene is an antioxidant that helps maintain vision and can reduce the risk of degenerative diseases including cancer. Certain peppers such as Texas' sweet jalapeno are also great sources for antioxidants.

Another nutritious crop produced in Texas is the red grapefruit, which began as a mutation on the pink grapefruit tree. Today, all red grapefruits are descendants of the ruby red first grown in Mission, Texas in the 1940s. Red grapefruit is our official state fruit and thrive in the fertile Rio Grande Valley. Red grapefruit contains high levels of a chemical called lycopene that has been found to prevent some cancers. These famous red gems also make wonderful holiday gifts and can easily be shipped across the country.

Many a childhood memory have been made biting into a juicy red wedge of watermelon. I can't think of a more refreshing treat for a hot Texas afternoon. Ranking third in the nation for watermelon production, Texas farmers grow more than 20 percent of the country's watermelon supply each year.

We also boast a harvest of the country's earliest crop of peaches. The Lone Star State ranks in the top ten in "utilized" peach production, so watch out Georgia. Tree-ripened peaches, primarily grown in the Hill Country and in East Texas, are produced at an annual rate of more than 360,000 bushels.

Are you getting hungry yet? Many Texans are unaware our state provides a bountiful cornucopia of fruits and vegeta-

bles. Whether you pick your own, buy them at a roadside stand or from your local supermarket, you can be sure you are getting some of the freshest and best tasting produce around. And best of all, it's grown by your neighbors and friends helping to support Texas agriculture industries and boost our state's economy.

Don McLean to headline WTRC's Dinner Show

Legendary singer/songwriter Don McLean will take center stage October 9 at the San Angelo Convention Center for West Texas Rehabilitation Center's eleventh annual Dinner Show.

The special evening, which coincides with the Center's 50th anniversary year, will include a cocktail reception at 6 pm at the Holiday Inn, seated dinner prepared by A Catered Affair at 7 pm at the Convention Center and "timeless" rock-folk-blues musical entertainment by McLean at 8 pm.

For more information about the WTRC Dinner Show, contact Donor Relations at 223-6300. West Texas Rehab is a non-profit organization that annually serves more than 21,000 children and adults with disabilities at facilities in Abilene, San Angelo and Ozona. Events such as the Dinner Show help supplement the Center's budget.

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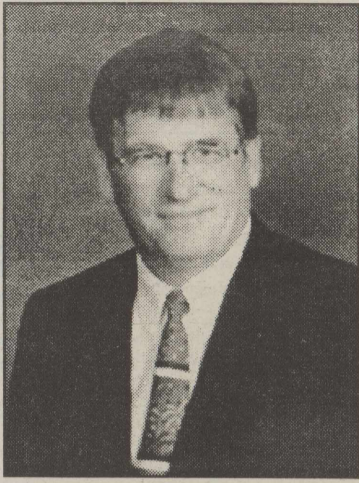
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or come by 121 W. Main in Bronte.

Thank you for your patronage.

Kathy L. • Joy P. • Phyliss P.



Rick Howell

Howell selected to represent Outstanding Principals

Rick Howell, Principal of Bronte High School has been selected to represent the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals as a Region 15 Outstanding Principal of the Year. TASSP recognizes outstanding principals and assistant principals from the twenty region Education Service Centers in the state. School Administrators are nominated and chosen by their peers within their regions. Nominations are based upon exemplary performance and outstanding leadership.

Rick, a 7 year principal has headed (or has been a member of) the leadership team at Bronte since 1996. He attended Hardin Simmons University and earned a Bachelor of Education degree. He attended Sul Ross University and was awarded a Masters of Education in 1996.

Rick sees himself as being a risk taker, a visionary and leader of learners. Rick states that his coaching background taught him many lessons that have helped him in administration. "I have been surrounded by wonderful, committed teachers, great parents, and students who give us all hope for the future." In administration or coaching, you are as good as the people you surround yourself with. Rick also states that he has been very lucky and blessed to work with the same administrative team in Bronte for seven years.

Bronte Homecoming royalty announced

The Homecoming celebration for the Bronte Longhorns took place during half-time of the Bronte's game against Rotan. The Longhorns defeated Rotan by a score of 26-12.

Five homecoming duchesses were selected by the student body to represent Bronte High School. These young ladies were Kanah Coalson, Corin Garcia, Kailey Howell, Britney McCutchen, and Ashley Torres. Five king nominees were also selected by the student body and included Tyson Baker, B.J. Hall, Cody Lee, Justin Moore, and Scott Snyder. From these nominees, the 2003 Homecoming King and Queen were selected and the winners were Corin Garcia and Tyson Baker.

The 2003 Football Sweetheart, selected by the 2003 Longhorn football team, was Natalee Reed. Natalee chose Justin Frazee as her escort for the evening.

The Longhorn Marching Band selected C.J. Macon

and Cory Cooper as their sweetheart and beau.

The following elementary students escorted the homecoming court: The first grade flower bearer was Crystal Bilbrey, and Colby Lee served as the crown bearer. The second grade flower bearers were Danielle Stewart and Trinity Demere; Stetson Emfinger and Bear McDonald served as crown bearers. Third grade flower bearers were Brook Bedford and Bradye Knight. Thoren Charles and T.J. White served as crown bearers.

BASB club news flash

by Randy Springer

On Monday, September 29th, 2003, at 7:00 pm the Bronte All-Sports Booster Club met for their regular meeting (held every Monday night at 7:00 pm at the school library). There were inspired parents and Bronte supporters in attendance who were greatly appreciated, and just a reminder, all parents, of students in grades 7 through 12, who are participating in any sport are encouraged and actively pursued to join the BASB and attend all regular meetings which are held on Monday nights during volleyball and football season, and it is never too late to become active in kids school athletic activities. We need your participation and there is something for everyone. Of course, this is a busy time of the year, and there are many other activities that parents are involved in at school and this is understandable. But, even under those circumstances, it would seem more could have attended. If you want to be involved working on projects, the Boosters promise to have one you will like, or better yet the Boosters would like your ideas. If you are burned-out and just want to be a member and come to the Monday meetings, the BASB will still accommodate.

So, this is what's happening with our kids this week: The varsity football Longhorns played another outstanding defensive game and the offensive is starting to "gel" has they defeated a good Eden team 34-6 to remain undefeated at 4-0, and position themselves for a showdown with the Hamlin Pied Pipers this Friday night at 7:30 pm at Longhorn field. The team is quickly becoming a very special group of kids, so we all need to show our support Friday night here at home.

The junior high Shorthorns played another consistent, tough game, but the results were much more favorable Thursday night, as they beat the Eden Bullpups 20 to 0 to even their record at 1-1. They



The 2003 Bronte High School Homecoming Court Elementary escorts included (from left) Bear McDonald, Trinity Demere, Stetson Emfinger, Danielle Stewart, Colby Lee, Crystal Bilbrey, Thoren Charles, Brooke Bedford, T. J. White, and Bradye Knight.

will travel to Hamlin Thursday night for a 5:00 kick-off.

The varsity volleyball Lady Longhorns played a critical match Tuesday night against arch-rival Water Valley and prevailed in 5 games to begin district at 1-0, indicating the Lady Longhorns are positioned to be in the thick of what is expected to be a very competitive district race. The Ladies are on a path of steady improvement.

The Bronte JV Lady Longhorns hosted a tournament on Saturday and held their own in a very tough field, which included the San Angelo Central JV and Abilene Cooper JV. The junior high Lady Shorthorns, coached by Carol Moore, both 7th and 8th grade teams continue to be very impressive (I've been involved in many of their games from a very interesting perspective) and if you really want to see the reason Bronte volleyball is known statewide, you should watch these games and the coaching staff doing their most important work. The Bronte coaching staffs, in all sports, are all fully involved on the Junior High level and even before in play development and should be commended for their hard work. This is the reason for continued success through the years in Bronte's athletic program (many less successful schools do not have coaching staffs able or willing to do this). Let's get out and support our outstanding volleyball and football teams this week.

The BASB is now working on the Annual Fall Festival to be held Saturday, October 18th, following the home volleyball game with Santa Anna which begins at 5:00 pm. Longhorn Fan yard signs,



Crowned Band Sweetheart during halftime of the 2003 Bronte High School Homecoming game against Rotan September 12, was C. J. Macon. She was escorted by Cory Cooper. Brooke Bedford was the flower bearer and Thoren Charles was the crown bearer.

new caps, and personalized cowbells are now available at all home games or from any BASB member listed below. Also see the advertisement for details in this issue of the newspaper (unfortunately, we had to shoot that pony who lost a shoe in the Davis Mountains, if you have been reading this column you will know what that means). The next BASB meeting is Monday, October 6th, at 7:00 pm. See you there. Let's get'er done.

Officers are (and can be

contacted at any time): Randy Springer, President (473-7018); Mickey Ehl, Secretary (282-2083), Alisa Webb, Treasurer (473-2811), Kenny White, 1st Vice-President, Becky Wills, 2nd Vice-President and 3rd Vice-President, Gloria Allen. Come on folks "Let's get'er done".

If only men could be induced to laugh more they might hate less, and find more serenity here on Earth.

—Malcolm Muggeridge

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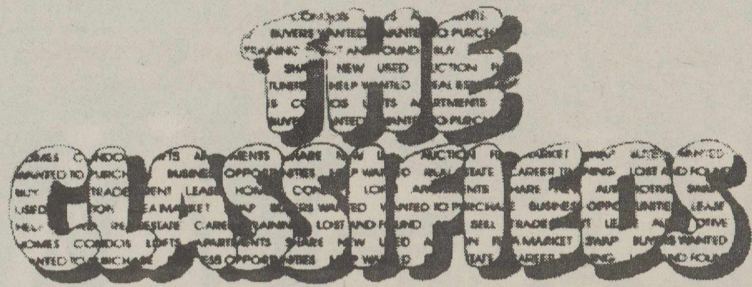
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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:
 All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or 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

FOR SALE OR RENT
 2 BR house in Bronte. 309 N. Randall. Call 325-378-7381 for more information.
 11-4tc

RENT TO OWN
 this nice 3 bedroom frame home at 906 Childress, Robert Lee. \$265/mo. Bathroom just redone and new exterior paint! 655-9141, to make application.
 05-tnc

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 Riding lawnmower. New. \$700. 453-2777.
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FOR SALE
 Black, Tubular Metal Bed with mattress. Full bed-lower, twin top. \$150. 473-6661.
 11-1tp

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 309 Lombard, Bronte. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Nice house. Needs a little work and will trade work for down payment. Monthly payment only \$300 which includes taxes & insurance. 325-439-1051.
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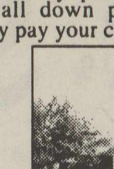
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29-EOW

THE BRONTE HOUSING AUTHORITY is now taking applications for 1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. We now have 1 bedroom apartments available. FMI (325) 473-3541.
 11-5tc

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 248+/- AC. Highway frontage, good water well, pens, 81 ac. CRP income, good dirt tank.
 147+/- AC. All Pasture. Convenient to Robert Lee. Flat to rolling terrain. Good hunting.
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 Notice is hereby given that Coke County is taking applications for a roadhand at Precinct #2 in Bronte. Applications may be picked up at the Coke County Judges office in the courthouse. For additional information contact Bill Wheat Coke County Commissioner of precinct #2. Call 282-4481 or 473-8504. Coke County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
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 Elm Creek Flea Market, 401 Park Ave., Ballinger. Free parking, free admission. FMI call 325-365-6382.
 11-1tc

ESTATE SALE
 200 E. Ave., Ballinger, Texas. Sat. Oct. 4th, 9 am - till ?. Appliances, furniture and misc.
 11-1tc

SOROSIS CLUB
 garage sale. Bank parking lot in Bronte. Sat. Oct. 4th, 8:00 am - 12 noon.
 11-1tc

ESTATE SALE
 of Florine Van Zandt in Blackwell on Sat. & Sun. Across from Methodist Church. Starts 8:00 am both days. 1920's dining room suit, piano, cedar chest (2) 1940's bedroom suits, old library table, (3) 1950's living room suits, IronRite machine, Paden City "American Rose" service for 12, Harmony House "Stardust" service for 12, small appliances, churns, cookware, linens, quilts, song book sets, glassware, lawn furniture, tools, antiques and collectibles.
 11-1tp

GARAGE SALE
 Sat. only, 8-4. Gas dryer, home exercise gym set, old quilts and misc. items. 627 North Franklin, Bronte.
 11-1tp

CARPOT SALE-A-BAG
 501 N. Franklin, Bronte. Saturday, October 4, 7 am - 11 am.
 11-1tp

NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING ON AGENCY PLAN
 OCTOBER 3, 2003
 AT 5:30 PM
 BRONTE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires the Housing Authority of the City of Bronte to prepare a Five Year Plan and an Annual Plan covering operations of the Public Housing and Section 8 Programs. On October 3, 2003 at 5:30 pm the Board of Commissioners for the Bronte Housing Authority will hold a public meeting to receive comments on the Housing Authority's Five-Year Plan and Annual Plan. The meeting will take place at 116 Northeast Railroad in the office of the Bronte Housing Authority. The draft Plans and all supporting documentation are available to the public for viewing at the administration office of the Housing Authority located at 116 Northeast Railroad, Monday, Wednesday, Friday during the hours of 9:00 am until 11:00 am.
 11-1tc

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"Quail Odyssey" set

Texas Cooperative Extension is sponsoring a "Quail Odyssey" through eight top West Texas quail-producing counties each Thursday in October.

Dates and counties involved include: October 9, Coke/Tom Green Counties; October 16, Coleman County; October 23, Stonewall County; and October 30, Shackelford/Taylor Counties.

Dr. Dale Rollins, San Angelo-based Extension wildlife specialist and odyssey coordinator, said the five tours are intended as a series. To entice return attendees, participants completing the entire odyssey will be eligible to win a donated shotgun or a guided Fisher County quail hunt.

"We'll be touring some of the best quail properties anywhere in the U.S.," said Rollins. Some tour sites are 'finished products' while others are just starting, so participants will be able to see operations from planning stages through completion. Each site will offer instructive lessons in quail management for any quail manager.

Rollins said the series is intended to be a "brown-bag" affair. As such, there won't be any registration fees. Donations to support ongoing quail research efforts and the Bobwhite Brigade Wildlife Leadership Camp will be accepted. Participants are asked to bring along their lunch, refreshments, and a folding chair.

For specific meeting times and locations for each of the tours, call Tommy Antilley, 453-2461.

Texas initiates cattle TB testing program

Beginning November 1, Texas will begin implementing the cattle tuberculosis (TB) plan developed by an industry and agency task force in late 2002. The strategy includes testing dairy and purebred cattle herds, work that may be conducted by certified private veterinary practitioners, without cost to Texas ranchers, reports Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas' state veterinarian and executive director for the Texas Animal Health Commission, the state's livestock health regulatory agency.

The surveillance testing, being funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is one element of the plan for regaining Texas' cattle TB-free status, which was granted in 2000, but revoked in 2002. In 2001, two of Texas 153,000 cattle herds were found to have cattle TB and were depopulated. As a result, the USDA, in 2002, downgraded Texas' TB status to TB modified accredited advanced, 'the second-highest level in the five-tiered disease program. Today, all states, except Texas, California, New Mexico and Michigan are classified free of cattle TB, a bacterial infection that causes internal lesions or tumors to develop on the animal's lungs, lymph nodes or other internal organs.

Texas' TB problems surfaced in summer 2001, when infection was detected in a purebred beef herd in Fayette County. In fall 2001, infection also was found in a Pecos County dairy and a beef

operation in Irion County; these operations were counted as one herd, because they had a single owner. In August 2003, a third herd - an infected purebred beef herd - was detected and depopulated in Zavala County.

Dr. Hillman said the infected herds in Texas were detected through routine examination of carcasses at slaughter. Federal and state meat inspectors check all carcasses for wholesomeness and submit suspicious tissue samples for laboratory testing. If lesions are TB-positive, the carcass is handled according to accepted health regulations, and the remaining animals in the herd of origin are subjected to TB skin tests. Test-positive animals are destroyed and carefully examined, and if additional infection is detected and confirmed, the herd is depopulated and ranchers are reimbursed with federal funds.

In the effort to locate the source of TB infection, or to determine if it has spread, possibly exposed herds also are tested, as are operations from which cattle were bought, sold or moved. In Texas, TAHC and USDA veterinarians have TB tested more than 14,000 head of cattle that had an epidemiological link to the state's infected herds. So far, no additional infection has been found.

"Texas is the country's leading cattle state and number six for dairy production. We must do everything possible to regain our cattle TB-free status, so animals can move across state lines without restrictions," explained Dr. Hillman.

Under current USDA regulations, Texas breeding cattle not originating from a TB-accredited free herd may not be exported out of state until they've tested negative for cattle TB, a process that takes 72 hours. Additionally,

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some states penalize Texas cattle by requiring additional testing or identification procedures for dairy calves or feeder cattle. TB tests or tagging requirements can be costly for Texas ranchers, who, each year, export more than 150,000 breeding cattle and nearly a million head of feeder animals.

"To regain our TB-free status, we must prove to the USDA and to other states that we've conducted surveillance herd testing sufficient to identify and eliminate all cattle TB infection," said Dr. Hillman. "If testing reveals no additional infection, we could reapply for TB-free status in August 2005."

"California and New Mexico, two other states that also recently lost TB-free status, are conducting similar disease surveillance," commented Dr. Hillman. In California, where three infected dairies have been detected since May 2002, animal health officials have tested more than a half million animals in about 300 of the 700 dairies slated for disease surveillance. Another 100,000 beef animals being moved from one state to another for grazing also are being tested.

"New Mexico lost its TB-free status in August 2003, after two infected dairies were detected. Since then, well over 50,000 head of cattle have been tested," reported Dr. Hillman. He reported that in both California and New Mexico, to date, no additional infected herds have been found.

"Michigan's TB ranking is modified accredited, the lowest TB classification of all U.S. states. In this northern state, more than 20 infected cattle herds have been detected and destroyed, but their disease situation is complicated, because of infected free-ranging

white-tailed deer. When disease transmission occurs between wildlife and livestock, disease eradication is extremely difficult," commented Dr. Hillman.

"USDA funding recently was approved for the Texas TB plan, so we can enlist and pay private practitioners to help with the TB testing program, which will begin November 1. We need the extra manpower for this effort, and some cattle producers just prefer to have their own practitioner conduct any tests."

"In September and October, we're offering the certification training seminars that are required for accredited private veterinary practitioners who want to participate," he explained. "We expect that at least 250 private practitioners will be certified by November 1 and will be ready to conduct herd tests under a 'fee-basis' contract agreement with the TAHC. Ranchers will have no out-of-pocket expenses, other than gathering the herd, presenting the cattle for testing, and holding the animals in a pen during the 72-hour test period."

Dr. Hillman explained that veterinarians test cattle by injecting tuberculin into skin of the animal's caudal fold, under the tail. Seventy-two hours later, the veterinarian examines the injection site for any swelling, lumps or thickening of the skin, which indicates a positive response to the test.

"Some 'suspect' animals will react to the tuberculin skin test, and these animals may have a blood sample drawn for a blood test, but a USDA or TAHC veterinarian also will follow up with another skin test on the animal's neck," he explained. "Animals positive on this test, called a 'comparative cervical' test must be slaughtered and carefully examined for internal lesions."

"When we start testing, we'll first focus on the state's nearly 850 dairies," commented Dr. Hillman. "This surveillance testing is no reflection whatsoever on the wholesomeness or safety of milk from Texas dairies or our meat supply. Commercially sold milk products are pasteurized, or heat-treated, which kills bacteria that may be present in the raw milk. These TB herd tests, instead, are one more way to assure that dairy and beef herds are not infected."

"While the Texas TB strategy begins with testing dairy herds, we'll also need TB tests on 2,000 to 2,500 purebred cattle herds, to ensure adequate surveillance," he said. "If we find TB infection in any Texas herd, federal funds are available to pay ranchers for the animals, so the herd may be depopulated, to prevent the spread of disease."

"The Texas TB plan calls for surveillance through herd testing of dairies and purebred beef herds, because, during the past 20 years in Texas, TB infection has been detected in these classes of cattle. Infected animals may not exhibit clinical evidence of illness until they are in the later stages of the disease, so conducting live-animal surveillance is an important tool in determining the status of these important herds," said Dr. Hillman.

Dr. Hillman said another major aspect of Texas' TB plan involves enhanced slaughter surveillance. The USDA has instituted additional import requirements on Mexican feeder cattle, and TAHC regulations require animal TB tests for Mexican-origin imported rodeo stock," said Dr. Hillman.

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