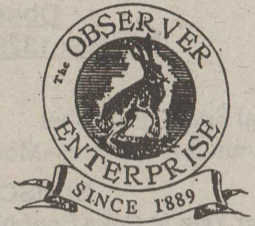


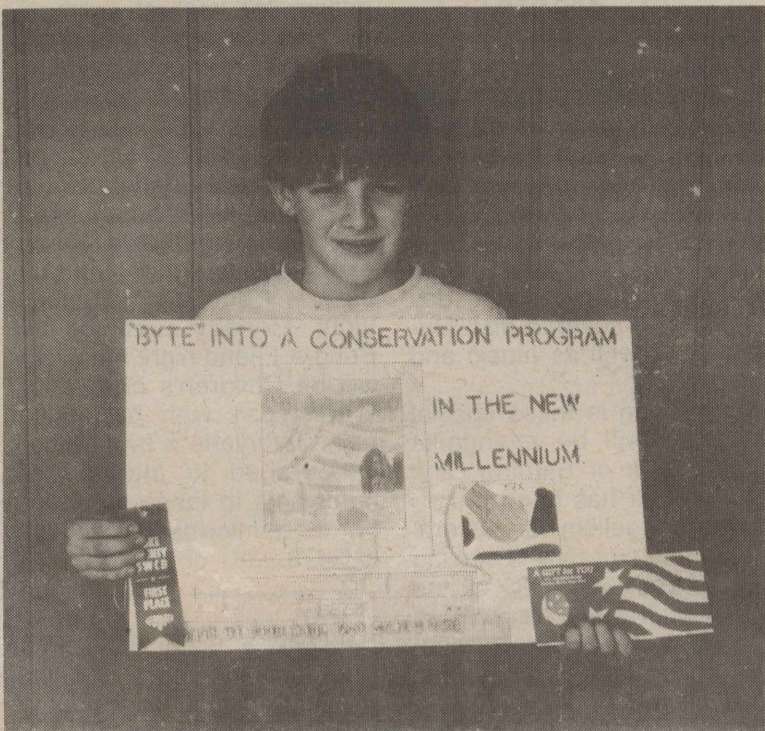
THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

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

Vol. 111, No. 31

Friday, March 5, 1999



Jaylon Saunders, a Bronte Elementary 5th grader, was the 1998-99 District Winner in the Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest.

Extreme Wildfire Alert

by Jackie Walker,
Coke County Judge

Coke County is under an extreme wildfire alert. The Commissioners Court will be addressing a BURN BAN Monday at Commissioners Court Meeting. If a Burn Ban is approved there would be NO OUTSIDE burning unless in a spark free container. The Court has hesitated before about enforcing a Burn Ban, as they felt they could depend on the Citizens of Coke County to be responsible. I'm sure they still feel you are responsible, but this may be the time we have to enforce such a ban. The State and Local officials are requesting that we have a Burn Ban.

Please be aware - we have extreme dry conditions - please do not burn anything unless it is in a container that will keep it from spreading. Your help is the best control we can have.

Public Hearing

The City of Robert Lee will hold a public hearing on the budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 1999 and ending March 31, 2000. It will be held at 6 E. 7th Street on Monday, March 8th, at 7 pm. Anyone wanting some input in the budget process is urged to attend.

Gospel Singing Sunday

The regular monthly community gospel singing will be held Sunday, March 7 from 2 to 4 pm at the Central Baptist Church in Bronte. Everyone in the area is invited to come and enjoy this fellowship time together.

Bronte Longhorn basketball

The Longhorns won their Bi-District game against Blackwell, but then lost to Ira in Area.

In the Bi-District game, Bronte beat Blackwell 43-38. Rodney Adams scored 14 points and had 10 rebounds. Dustin Holland had 13 points and 12 rebounds. Brandon Gibbs had 2 points, 7 rebounds and 7 assists. Zeb Speary and Ryan McCorkle each added 7 points.

In the Area game, Bronte lost to Ira 47-58. Rodney Adams scored 12 points, had 10 rebounds, and 4 blocks. Dustin Holland had 2 points and 6 rebounds. Zeb Speary had 7 points and 5 rebounds. Also scoring points were Ryan McCorkle with 8, Steve Eldred with 6, Brandon Gibbs and Henry White with 5 each, and Tim Green with 2. Josh Schoenfield had 6 assists.

Two Longhorns made All-District - 20A, Rodney Adams, who was named MVP, and Dustin Holland. Honorable Mentions went to Zeb Speary, Brandon Gibbs, and Jerrod McClure.

Saunders named conservation poster winner

Jaylon Saunders of Mrs. Pat Lee's Bronte 5th grade is the winner of the conservation poster contest for students in the 5th and 6th grades for 1998-99. The contest is sponsored by the Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District. In addition to a ribbon and certificate, Jaylon received a \$100 U.S. savings bond and will be honored at an awards banquet in Wall on March 25, 1999. Jaylon is the son of Mike Saunders of Bronte and Pam Saunders of San Angelo.

Clayton Austin of Mrs. Patti Bryne's 5th grade was the district runner-up and the recipient of a \$50 savings bond. Clayton is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Monty Austin of Robert Lee.

The top four places in each class were: Bronte 5th grade (Mrs. Pat Lee); 1st - Jaylon Saunders; 2nd - Cheyenne Webb; 3rd - Sarah Basquez; 4th - Rebecca Rawlings and Lillian McMullan. Bronte 6th grade (Mrs. Rawlings and Mrs. Heather Lee); 1st - Calli Johnson; 2nd - Cody Moore; 3rd - Desiree' Mirelez; 4th - Ashleigh Kelly. Robert Lee 5th grade (Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Byrne); 1st - Clayton Austin; 2nd - Kyla Millican; 3rd - Tiffany Bagwell; 4th - Olivia

Martinez. Robert Lee 6th grade (Mrs. Burns and Mrs. McCabe); 1st - Lindsey Roe; 2nd - Brittany Soliz; 3rd - Michele Sanchez and Ashley Womack; 4th - Kayli Dickey, Julie Riley and Alana Parker. Every student who submitted a poster received a certificate from the Natural Resources Conservation Service in appreciation for the thought, effort and publicity on the need and worth of soil and water conservation that the posters depicted. The posters will be displayed at the Robert Lee State Bank and First National Bank in Bronte in the near future.

In recognition of the growing response from teachers and students, the directors instituted a new award in 1995. The class with the most outstanding posters will be honored as the year's Outstanding Class and presented a rotating trophy plaque with a space for engraving the class name and year.

Linda Burns and Dianna McCabe's 6th grade was chosen Outstanding Class for 1998-99. All the youngsters seemed to regard the award with enthusiasm and there was already talk among next year's Coke County 5th and 6th graders about plans to win the plaque for their class next

time.

Three posters done by Jaylon Saunders, Clayton Austin and Lindsey Roe have been entered in the Texas Area II Contest which includes 52 counties.

Pupils could choose any phase of resource conservation that is part of the work of the local soil and water conservation district. Included in this work are: soil use and treatment; erosion control practices; crop, range, and pastureland management; drainage problems; watershed protection; flood prevention; fish and wildlife management; and promoting the involvement of all citizens in conserving water and renewable resources.

Response from teachers and students was excellent and posters submitted were outstanding, both in art work and content. Each year choosing only two to four winners per class and two overall becomes more and more difficult for the board of directors.

Cemetery Assoc. to meet

The Hayrick Cemetery Association will meet Monday, March 8 at 5 pm at the Lodge building in Robert Lee.



The Bronte Longhorn Basketball Team finished their season at the Area Playoffs in Sweetwater against Ira last week. Members of the team include (front row, from left) Jerrod McClure, Steve Eldred, Tim Green, Josh Schoenfield, Ryan McCorkle, Zeb Speary, Brandon Poehls, (back row, from left) Blake McKee, Henry White, Rodney Adams, Dustin Holland, Brandon Gibbs, and Coach Rocky Rawls.

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

Obituaries

Rawlings
 Thomas Carter Rawlings died Saturday evening, Feb. 20, 1999, surrounded by his loving family at his ranch home.

He was born into a pioneer ranching family of Coke County Nov. 12, 1921, the first born son of Carter and Ruth Rawlings. His family moved to the Water Valley Ranch in 1923.

Tom graduated from Water Valley High School, attended Tarleton College and served four years in the Army Air Force during World War II. In 1946, he returned to the family ranching business near Water Valley.

He married Lora M. Humble on April 15, 1949. To this union were born four children, Paul, David, Alice and John Rawlings (deceased).

Tom was a lifetime member of the Water Valley Methodist Church and served as a trustee on the Water Valley school board.

Survivors include his wife, Lora M. Rawlings; son, Paul and wife, Caren, of Cypress; daughter, Alice Rawlings of Fort Worth; and son, David and his wife, Kary, of Bronte. He has eight grandchildren, Russell and Katrina Rawlings, Rebecca, Philip and Samuel Rawlings, John and Elizabeth Honea and Christina Brown; and one great-grandson.

Tom also is survived by two sisters, Marian Bird and husband, Tom, and Beth Edwards and husband, Hank.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Frank.

Tom was an extremely honest and caring man, respected by all who knew him.

A family burial service was held Monday morning, February 22, followed by a memorial service at Water Valley United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Jim McWilliams officiating. Arrangements were by Johnson's Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to West Texas Rehabilitation Center, Hospice of San Angelo or a favorite charity.

Coke County Sheep Dog Trial slated
 Coke County will host a Sheep Dog Trial this weekend, March 5, 6, and 7, at the Bill Casey Ranch west of Robert Lee. Top handlers and dogs from across the U.S. will be competing. According to event coordinator Russell Johnson, the trials will consume most of the daylight hours all three days. The public is invited to attend free of charge, and concessions will be available.

For more information, contact Russell at (915) 473-2003.

Commissioners Court meets
 On February 22nd, the Coke County Commissioners Court met in a special session. There was some discussion for a trial unit road system for Precinct #1 and #3, but no action was taken.

A motion was made and passed to pool Precinct #1 and #3 money to purchase a new backhoe.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Commissioners met in a special session on March 1st. There was discussion for maintaining Precinct #1 and #3 on a trial basis to see if tax dollars can be saved and work improved.

A motion was made and passed for a trial run on the following for the remaining seven months of this budget year:

1. Limit the work in one precinct to three months. They can pull out for emergency and jobs, but not move the equipment unless it is an emergency. The time can be extended with the agreement of the Commissioners.
2. Continue this year with each precinct paying for oil and gas when working in their precinct.
3. Split the wages 50/50 for the three employees for the remainder of this budget year.
4. Finish this year out without a lead road man, but consider it for next budget year.

The meeting was adjourned.

Cancer patient is granted final wish
 You may have read the article about the hospice patient in San Angelo who was granted his last wish -- that of going fishing one final time. The article began with a big picture on the front page of last Thursday's edition (February 25, 1999) of the Standard Times newspaper. What you may not know is that the patient, Stanley Davis, is married to a Coke County native, Prescilla (Wylie) Davis,

who is the daughter of Mary May Wylie and the late T. M. Wylie.

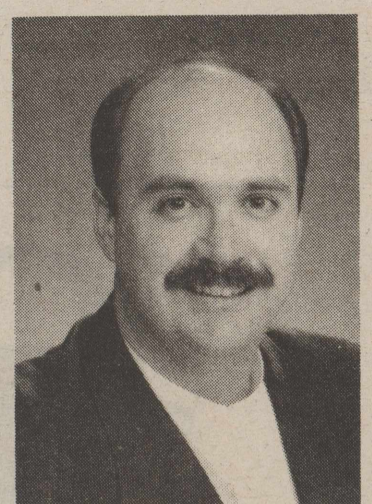
Mr. Davis was diagnosed with multiple myeloma on October 13, 1998. This cancer is one which erodes the bones. Although it can be cured, Davis' disease was too far along. He developed a severe fracture in his spine and is paralyzed from the waist down.

His final request to go fishing was granted last Wednesday as he, his family, and hospice nurses piled into a pontoon boat and went fishing on Lake Nasworthy. Although he didn't catch any fish, the nurses determined that he was enjoying himself as they caught him grinning several times during the course of the outing.

Revival slated in Bronte
 Bronte's First Baptist Church will be hosting a series of revival meetings next week, March 7-10. Services will be at 10:55 am on Sunday and at 7 pm each night Sunday through Wednesday. There will also be noon services in the church's fellowship hall on Monday through Wednesday featuring a covered dish luncheon as well as music and Bible study.

Preaching in these special services will be evangelist David Burk of Sterling City. David Burk has been in full-time evangelism for several years and currently is serving as the staff evangelist at the First Baptist Church in Sterling City as well as the president of Total Surrender Evangelistic Association. He and his wife Debbie have three children. David has preached in several states and foreign countries, most recently in Venezuela where he was allowed to speak on many university campuses. His preaching is straight-forward and true to the Word of God, calling individuals to a genuine relationship with God.

Music during these revival services will be presented by



David Burk

The Atens, music evangelists from Granbury. Sherman and Tammy Aten are excellent musicians who present a variety of music geared to all ages. They are the parents of two children. They, too, have been active in full-time evangelism for several years in many states and foreign countries. They have ministered in countries such as Venezuela, Russia, and Wales. Their singing and playing will inspire and challenge all who attend.

Special emphases have been planned for each evening's service. Sunday night will be Sunday School night, Monday night will be Bring A Friend night, Tuesday will be Children's night, and Wednesday with be Youth night. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend and participate in these services. For more information, please call 473-2331 or 473-5661.

Churches of Robert Lee
Invite You to Worship

Emmanuel Pentecostal
 PO Box 609 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy
 (915) 453-2360
 Rev. Ray Aldridge, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

First United Methodist Church
 PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne
 (915) 453-2417
 Rev. Jim McWilliams, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am Sunday School
 11 am Worship
 Wed. 7 pm Choir

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

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

Victory Assembly of God
 PO Box 638 • 6th & Houston
 (915) 453-2208
 Rev. Loyd Thurman, Pastor
 Sun. 9:45 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
 Rev. Garry Bivins, 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

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Program Cars

1998 Blue Lincoln Town Car

1998 Green Lincoln Town Car

1998 Blue Taurus

1998 White Contour S.E.

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| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1999 Rangers | 0.25% Interest |
| 1999 Explorers | 1.90% Interest |
| 1999 Wind Stars | 1.25% Interest |
| 1999 Crown Victorias | 2.90% Interest |
| 1/2 Ton Pickups | 4.90% Interest |

453-2715



Robert Lee Sixth Grade was named the 1998-99 Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest Outstanding Class. Linda Burns and Diana McCabe are teachers for the class.

Hall named to all-conference squad

Kim Hall was recently named an honorable mention member of the All-American Southwest Conference women's basketball squad. Hall, a sophomore from Bronte who plays for Hardin Simmons University, has been averaging ten points per game this season, along with averaging six rebounds and two assists per game.

HSU recently made it 16 wins in a row, this one over cross-town rival McMurry, beating the Indians 89-81 in the inaugural American Southwest Conference tournament championship game in Abilene. Hall accounted for 18 points in the contest, upping her average considerably. With the win, HSU also laid claim to a possible No. 1 or No. 2 seed in the South Region of this week's NCAA Division II national tournament.

RLVFD news

by Marian Thompson

The first meeting was held on March 1st, after the training session.

Sky Warn Leader Bud Thompson, introduced the fire department volunteers to the assembly. He then introduced Buddy McIntire of the National Weather Service, who then gave a class on Severe Weather Spotter Training. There were 22 people present to receive their certificates. The class included slides and a film showing cloud formations, rotations, what to look for in a storm, and how the spotters help the Weather Service. He stressed the importance of the spotters, as the radar shows only conditions, not actual tornadoes.

After the lecture, members held their regular meeting. Topics of discussion included recruiting firemen, fund raisers, and donations on the water bill. Some residents do not understand that if they want to make a donation they just add the donation to the total bill and circle the Y.

Fire danger is extreme in Coke County. The Forest Service has requested a Burn Ban. They will send someone to the Commissioners Court to officially request it.

In the month of February, the department received 6 calls: 3 city and 3 county.

Warning to parents from Blackwell ISD

This is a letter that was given to us by J. O'Donnell at Danbury Hospital, Outpatient Chemical Dependency Treatment Center. We feel like this is very important and all parents should be aware and alert.

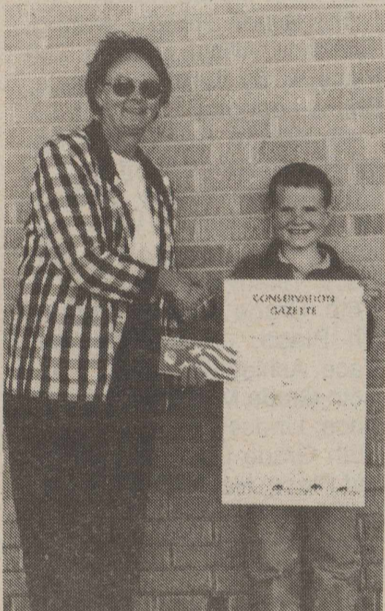
A form of tattoo called "Blue Star" is being sold to school children.

It is a small piece of paper containing a blue star. They are the size of a pencil eraser and each star is soaked with LSD.

The drug is absorbed through the skin simply by handling the paper. They are also brightly colored paper tattoos resembling postage stamps and that have the pictures of the following on them: Superman, Clowns, Bart Simpson, Mickey Mouse, Disney Characters, and Butterflies.

Each one is wrapped in foil. This is a new way of selling acid by appealing to young children. These are laced with drugs. If your child gets any of the above, do not handle them. These are known to react quickly and some are laced with strychnine.

Please let everyone know about this so we may get the word out about the danger to our children.



Donna Waldrop, Soil and Water Conservation District Technician, is shown with Clayton Austin. Clayton, a 5th grader at Robert Lee Elementary, was the District Runner-up in the 1998-99 Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest.

• Never tell your little brother that you're not going to do what your mom told you to do. -Hank, Age 12

• Remember you're never too old to hold your father's hand. -Molly, Age 11

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Bronte, Texas

March 7-10, 1999

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Music • Sherman & Tammy Aten

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MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY
Noon Covered Dish Luncheons & 7 pm

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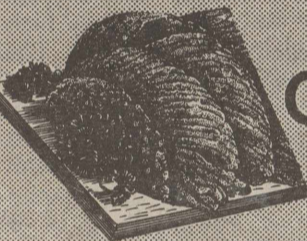


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Ground Beef

Lb. **.99**

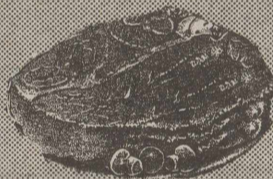


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USDA Select

Boneless

Chuck Roast

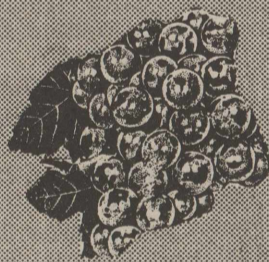
Lb. **\$1.29**



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Lb. **.69**



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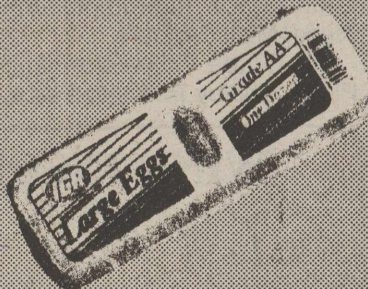


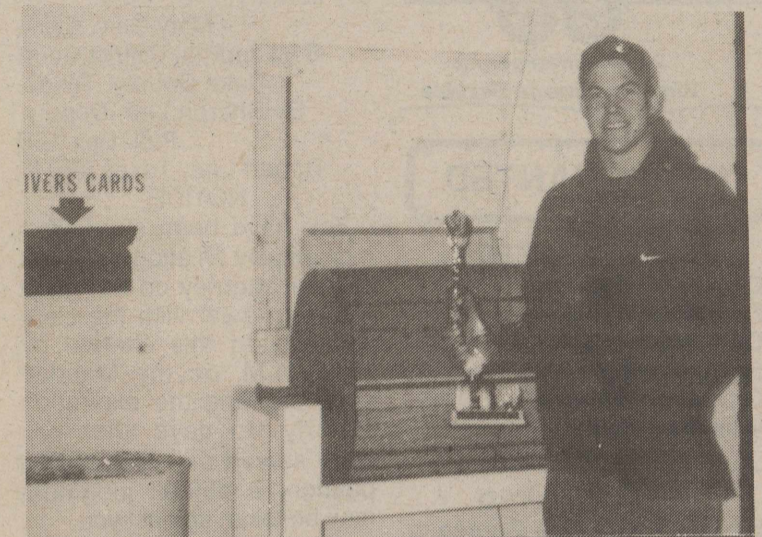
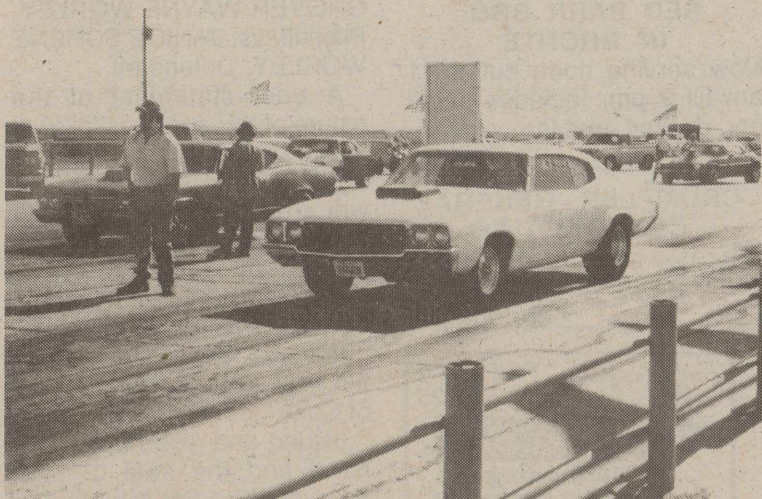
IGA

Large

Eggs

18 Ct. Ctn. **.99**





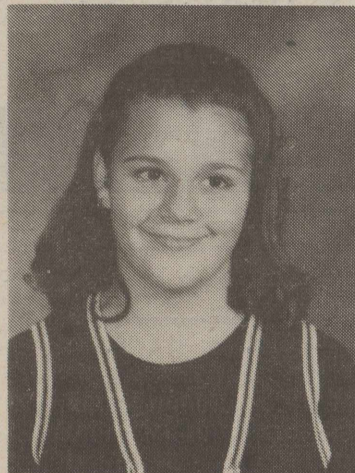
BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS

ing her solo off of the most difficult Grade 1 list. By making a Superior rating, Amy is now qualified to take her Solo to the State Contest in June.

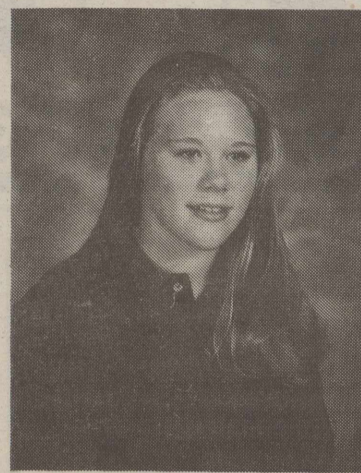
We are proud of all of the students that competed in this contest!

Erin & Ariel MARRS take top ratings in UIL contest

Erin MARRS, a senior at Bronte High school, received a Division I (superior) rating and gold medal for her class I (high difficulty level) vocal solo and qualified to participate in the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest, to be held on the campus of Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos at the end of May. Erin performed the solo "Se Tu M'ami, Se Sospiri" by Pergolesi, sung in Italian, for ad-



Ariel MARRS



Erin MARRS

judication in the UIL Region VII Vocal Solo and Ensemble Contest. The contest was held Saturday, February 13, 1999, at Howard Payne University in Brownwood. This is Erin's fourth year to qualify for state solo and ensemble contest.

Ariel MARRS, Erin's sister and a seventh grade student at Bronte Junior High, received a Division I (superior) rating and gold medal for her solo "Simple Gifts," a Shaker song arranged by the American composer, Aaron Copland. Ariel performed in the corresponding middle school division of the Region VII Solo and Ensemble Contest.

Earlier this year, both MARRS girls were named to Texas Music Educator Association Region VII honor choirs as a result of placing high in the audition process. Erin earned a chair in second alto section in the Region VII All-District High School Choir Clinic and Concert, and Ariel participated in the corresponding All-Region Middle School choir Clinic and Concert. Ariel was third chair in the second soprano section of 30 singers; 110 second sopranos auditioned for the choir. These events were held in November on the campus of

ECC Ambulance Service lists contributions

The East Coke County Ambulance Service reports the following contributions that were received in February.

Donations

Bronte Chamber of Commerce

Memorials

Dr. Clark Johnson
Billy & Charlotte Tounget
Margaret Fields
Helen Kirkland
Jeanene Lee
Joe & Glenda Draper, LeDrew & Bobbie Arrott, Mildred Thomason, Bob & Beverly Ragsdale, Royce & Jean Fancher, Jack & Nina Brewer
Drexel Ragsdale
Wayne & Sandra Arrott
Tom Bivins
Larry & Merle Kelso, Wayne & Sandra Arrott, Richard & Peggy Hembree
Lois Webb
Wayne & Sandra Arrott

Cody Harris, a senior at Bronte High School, placed 2nd out of 35 competitors competing in the Street Trophy Division in the first race of the 1999 season at Wall Dragway Saturday, February 27th. The good placing was especially sweet since it was his 18th birthday. Cody, the son of Mike and Debbie Harris, races a 1970 Buick GS which he built himself with the help of his dad and Jim Turner of the Highway Garage in Bronte.

Bronte High School Longhorn Band member wins top honors

On Saturday, February 20th, ten students from the Bronte High School Longhorn Band competed in the UIL district 7 Solo and Ensemble contest. The students had to perform a difficult solo taken from the UIL prescribed music list and performed alone, in front of a music judge for a rating of Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair or Poor.

The Longhorn Band students that performed were,

Chase Williams on trumpet who scored a Good rating; Ariel MARRS on Clarinet scored a Superior; RoyLee Flores on Alto Sax scored a Superior; Josh Eubanks on Alto Sax scored a Superior; Michael Johnson on Tenor Sax scored a Superior; Jonathan Tomes on Alto Sax scored an Excellent; Tiffany Riorden on Trombone scored a Good; Elizabeth Morgan on Alto Sax scored an Excellent; Amy Morgan on Flute scored a Superior; and Katy Frazee on Flute scored an Excellent.

Amy Morgan opted to try for the state contest by memoriz-

Granbury High School in Granbury, Texas.

Mr. George Tomes, band director for Bronte ISD, is faculty sponsor of these vocal events. Dale Ellis, director of music at the First Baptist Church in Bronte, directs Erin and Ariel, while his wife, Ida Lee Ellis played the piano accompaniments for the UIL events. Erin and Ariel are the daughters of Terry and Sherri MARRS.

School Menu



Breakfast

Monday, March 8
Cereal, Grape Juice, Biscuit, Milk
Tuesday, March 9
Breakfast Pizza, Orange Juice, Blueberry Muffins, Milk
Wednesday, March 10
Pancake & Sausage on a Stick, Apple Juice, Donut, Milk
Thursday, March 11
Scrambled Eggs, Hash Browns, Biscuit, Milk
Friday, March 12
Breakfast Burrito, Mixed Fruit, Pop Tart, Milk

Lunch

Monday, March 8
Spaghetti, Tossed Salad, Sweet Corn, Bread Sticks, Milk, Banana Pudding
Tuesday, March 9
Soft Tacos with Cheese, Refried Beans, Spanish Rice, Lettuce & Tomato, Milk, Pink Panther Cake
Wednesday, March 10
Corn Dogs, Tator Tots, Macaroni & Cheese, Mixed Fruit, Milk, Sugar Cookies
Thursday, March 11
Oven Fried Chicken with Gravy, Creamed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Milk, Jello
Friday, March 12
Submarine Sandwich, Ham & Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle, Sliced Apples, Chips, Milk, Ice Cream Cups

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Attorneys at Law
107 W. Main Street • Bronte
Tuesdays & Thursdays
8:30 to 4:30
473-4035

Sheriff's Dept. posts February arrests/charges

The Coke County Sheriff's Department has released the following arrests made and charges filed during the month of February.

- Darrell Lee Lilley - Public Intoxication, Disorderly Conduct - Language, February 5, 1999.
- Rex Dee Armstrong - Driving While Intoxicated, 3rd, February 6, 1999.
- Robert Charles Schenck - Public Intoxication, February 6, 1999.
- Stanley Griffen Daulong - Unlawfully Carrying a Weapon, February 10, 1999.
- Ralph Tad Richards Jr. - Trespassing - Capias Pro Fine, Parole Violation, February 10, 1999.
- Lois Tyson - Assault Causes Bodily Injury, February 23, 1999.
- Stacy Clark Rains - Driving While Intoxicated, 3rd, Assault - Family Violence, Driving While License Suspended, February 24, 1999.
- Terry Montez - Making Alcohol Available to a Minor.
- Valerie Rios - Theft by Check, February 26, 1999.
- Mario T. Escobedo - Driving While License Revoked, February 26, 1999.
- Curtis Lee Chapman - Driving While Intoxicated, 3rd, February 27, 1999.
- Kerry Ashworth Driskill - Driving While Intoxicated, 1st, February 28, 1999.

LOOK WHO'S NEW!

Sarah Elizabeth Bryan

Sarah Elizabeth Bryan was born at Hendricks Medical Center at 3:24 pm on February 25, 1999, weighing 6 lbs. 1 oz and she was 18 inches long.

Welcoming her are her parents Peggy and Roland Bryan Jr. of Abilene. Grandparents are Billy (Bucky) and Barbara Sparks and Aunt Bobbie of Robert Lee; Roland and Becky Bryan of Abilene; and Steve and Lanell Scott of Trent. Great grandparents are Calvin and Cova Sparks of Robert Lee; Jean Bryan of Abilene; and Janie and Andy Malloy of San Angelo. Also welcoming her are her great-great grandmother, Mrs. Grimes of San Angelo, and other aunts, uncles and cousins.

Blackwell students compete at UIL Tourney

Blackwell students competed at the Bangs UIL Speech Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 27th. Clint Morgan placed 4th in Informative Speaking, Kristin Harvell placed 5th in Persuasive Speaking, and Lee Nault took 2nd place in Persuasive Speaking.

TxDOT to host public meetings

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will conduct public meetings in March to solicit public input concerning project selections for future highway improvements in the 15-county area of the San Angelo District.

Citizens will have the opportunity to obtain information or solicit comments about the Transportation Improvement Plan and the United Transportation Plan for the fiscal years 2000-2002. The meetings are scheduled for March 22 in Garden City at 7 pm at the Glasscock County Courthouse and March 25 at 1:30 pm in the Assembly Room of the TxDOT District Office at 4502 Knickerbocker Rd.

The San Angelo meeting will be held in conjunction with the City of San Angelo's Metropolitan Planning Organization. Written comments will be accepted through April 1 for either projects inside or outside the Metropolitan Area Boundaries. Counties include Coke, Concho, Crockett, Edwards, Glasscock, Irion, Kimble, Menard, Reagan, Real,

Citizens fighting fire with common sense

Dusty, dry, and dormant conditions persist in West Texas but man-caused wildfires were minimal for February. "People are really becoming conscious of the drought situation and are displaying more caution using fire as a tool," commented Jan Davis, Information Officer with the Texas Forest Service. Citizens are practicing more care when welding and burning trash. Landowners are building better fuel breaks when performing controlled burns.

Communities need to remain alert to the high to extreme fire danger. Although wildfire occurrences in the last two weeks have been low, gusty winds and lack of rainfall continue to turn rural land vegetation into kindling. Eighteen counties in Central-West Texas have declared burning bans. Before lighting a fire outdoors, check first with fire or sheriff departments. Outdoor burning during a fire ban is dangerous and a punishable offense.

Those living in rural areas can further protect themselves from wildfire by permanently keeping debris and tall dry vegetation at least thirty feet from structures. "This may keep a fire from burning close to your home and provide operating room for fire-fighting personnel should a wildfire occur," says Davis. For more information on wildfire prevention please contact the Abilene Fire Prevention Team at 915-672-2768 or 915-676-5827.

Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, and Tom Green.

Comments concerning projects outside the San Angelo Metropolitan Area Boundaries should be addressed to Walter G. McCullough, P.E., District Engineer; TxDOT; 4502 Knickerbocker Rd; San Angelo 76904.

District Court Disposition

The 51st District Court posts the following disposition from February 22, 1999.

State of Texas vs. Jerry Diaz Jr in the charge of Sexual Assault of a Child. Plea: Ten years deferred adjudication, 180 days County Jail, \$2,000 fine.

FSA small grain pull-off date

This is to remind producers that March 15th is the pull-off date for small grain being grazed that is intended for harvest. This is due to insurance regulations regarding small grains being grazed. If you intend to continue grazing past this date notify your insurance agent so adjustments in your policy may be made.



Bronte Nursing Home honored George and Jimmie Snapp as "Volunteers of the Year" February 18, 1999. Pictured are George Snapp (front, center), Nancy Dewbre - BNH Administrator (back row, from left), Jimmie Snapp, and Lisa Thralls - BNH Activities/SSD Director.

- When you want something expensive, ask your grandparents. -Matthew, Age 12
- Never smart off to a teacher whose eyes and ears are twitching. -Andrew, Age 9

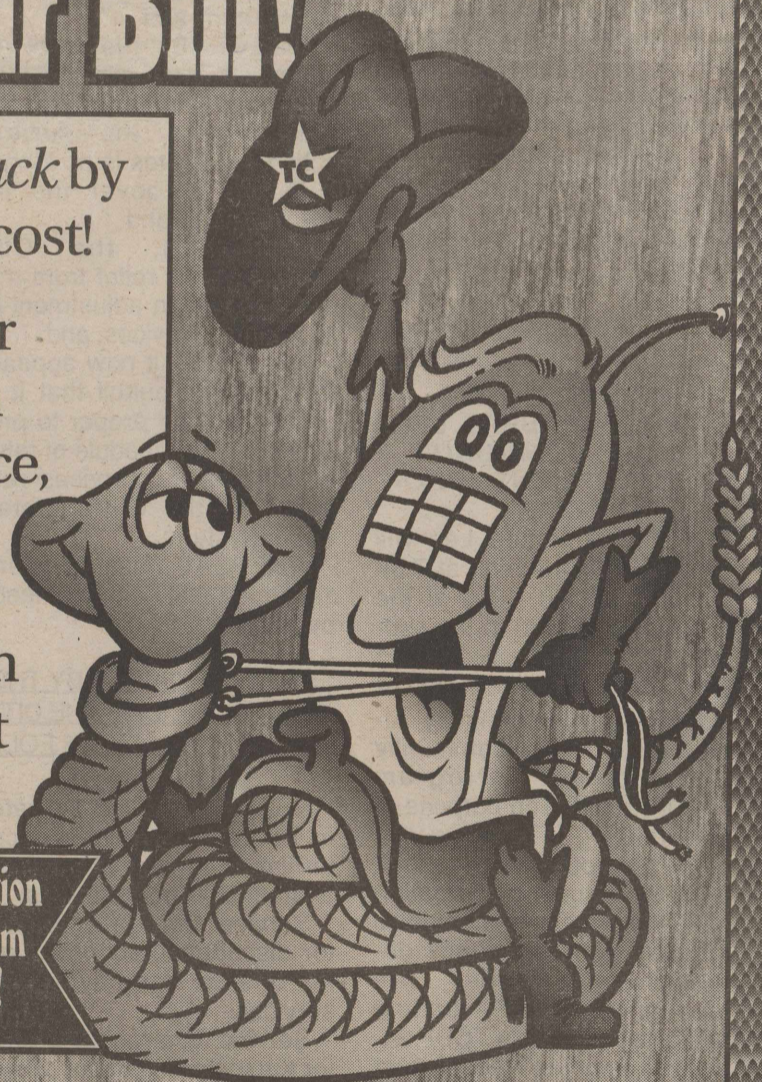
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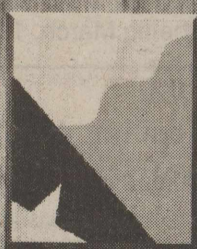
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