

# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

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

Vol. 112, No. 47

Friday, June 23, 2000

## Fort Chadbourne Day activities set for this Saturday in Bronte

The annual Fort Chadbourne Days, sponsored by the Bronte Chamber of Commerce, will be held Saturday, June 24th at the City Park in Bronte.

This year's events include a parade, arts, crafts and food booths, live entertainment and music, fishing rodeo, softball tournament, auction, tours of Old Fort Chadbourne and a "Fun Run."

The softball tournament will start on Friday and continue through Saturday. For more information, Call Kenny White at 473-5307.

Registration for the "Fun Run" will start at 7:45 a.m. Saturday morning at the Bronte Track Field. Races start at 8:30 a.m. with the 1/2 mile kids run, followed by the 5K (3.1 Miles) run. For more information, call Gloria Allen at 473-3038.

Arts, craft and food booths will start to open at 8:00 a.m. at the Pavilion.

The Parade will start at the Bronte Health and Rehab Center at 10:30 a.m. Line up for the parade will start at 10:00 a.m.

There will be a welcome at the Pavilion at 11:15 a.m.

Saturday. Following the welcome, the live entertainment will begin.

Fishing rodeo will begin at 12:00 and end at 2:00 p.m. at the Bronte Lake in the Park. Prizes will be given hourly for the biggest fish. Anyone can fish but the prizes are for kids 15 years old and under.

Tours of Ft. Chadbourne will be at 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. The tour busses will depart from the Pavilion.

The auction will start at 2:30 p.m.

Don't miss out on any of the fun!!!!

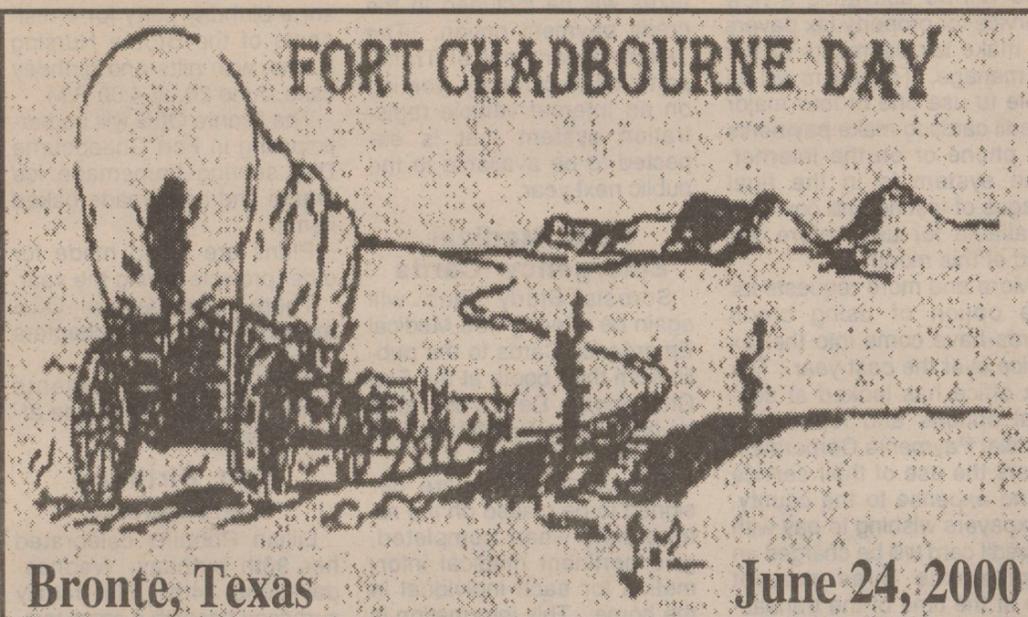
### Bronte Cemetery Association Needs Your Help

The Bronte Cemetery Association is in need of lawn-mowers and weed-eaters.

Any donations of mowers and weed-eaters would be greatly appreciated.

Donations of monies to purchase much needed equipment would also be appreciated.

To make donations or for further information, please contact Bill Luckett at 473-4821, or Leslie Rolls at 473-2391.



Bronte, Texas

June 24, 2000

### "Senior Connections" Community Meeting

The Robert Lee Senior Center and the Area Agency on Aging of the Concho Valley Council of Governments are hosting community meeting on Wednesday, June 28, 2000 at 11:00 a.m. at the Robert Lee Senior Center located at 1402 County Park Rd. (Austin St.) "Senior Connections" is a community meeting designed to provide information about services and programs available to older individuals. A brief introduction to the Area Agency on Aging will be followed by a question and answer session. Senior citizens, their families and friends, and other persons who are interested in issues affecting the aging population are invited to share their insights, concerns and thoughts for solutions to the unmet needs of Coke County's older population.

A wide variety of printed information covering various topics will also be distributed. Area Agency on Aging representatives will meet with community members for "Lunch and Conversations" at the Center at 11:30. Additionally, representatives with expertise in the areas of information & Assistance, Benefits Counseling, Nursing Homes, and Long Term Care will be available from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. for individual, confidential appointments.

Persons wishing to schedule individual appointments may contact Annice Walker at 915-459-2314, or the Area Agency on Aging of the Concho Valley toll free at 1-800-

728-2592.

Make plans to attend this important event at the Robert Lee Senior Center and let the Area Agency on Aging staff help you get ...connected! Services of the Area Agency on Aging of the Concho Valley are funded by Texas Department on Aging.

### County benefits from weekend rains

Coke County was again the recipient of good general rains this past weekend. Although different areas of the county measured differing amounts, the general consensus was that all areas received up to and some over 2 inches. Most of that came in a series of two or three slow rains.

No one has yet been so bold as to think that the drought may have ended, but these good rains during the summer are leading some to believe that the end may at least be in sight.

### 4-H Fashion Show

Attention 4-H Clothing Project Members. The County Fashion Show will be held Thursday, June 29th. To enter you must turn in your garment and the Construction Worksheet on Monday, June 26th. Contact the office for more details.

### City of Robert Lee Publishes Drinking Water Report

In accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, a Consumer Confidence Report (Drinking Water Quality) has been prepared for distri-

bution to customers of the Water System of the City of Robert Lee. The report will be mailed the week of June 26, 2000. Copies will be available at City Hall.

### Robert Lee Studies Firetruck Needs

In response to concerns presented by the Fire Department of Robert Lee, the City Council is planning a Public Meeting to discuss the merits and expense of purchasing a firetruck for the City.

The current city pumper, a 37 year-old "1963" Howe Pumper Truck, will no longer meet the standards of the National Fire Protection Association.

A recent effort by the Fire Department was not successful in obtaining enough money to meet this need through the grant process; consequently, the city will try to assist in finding a solution to provide adequate fire protection for the community.

Failure to address this community problem can result in an excessive fire insurance rate for the property owners as-well-as a lack of adequate fire protection for our homes.

All citizens are urged to attend a community meeting on Thursday, June 29th at 7:30 p.m. in the courtroom of the courthouse for the purpose of discussing a solution for this city-wide concern.

### County 4-H Camp

County 4-H Camp will be held July 6-7 at Buffalo Gap. For more information please contact the Extension office at 453-2461.



Coke County Tax Assessor/Collector Kristeen Roe and her husband, Billy Jack Roe with State Representative Robert Junell, attended the banquet and installation ceremonies for the 46th Annual Tax Assessor/Collector's Conference in Midland June 15. Rep. Junell, guest speaker, presided over the swearing in of the officers which included Mrs. Roe as President of the statewide association. Kristy noted that this is a tremendous honor for her as well as Coke County. It is also an opportunity to use the position to bring the concerns and needs of Coke County and other counties like ours before the decision makers on the state level. The theme of her acceptance speech was "Promoting Professionalism in Public Service Through Education and Teamwork."

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

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**New Payment Options for Property Taxes Soon**

The Coke County Tax Office will be activating a new service for property tax payers to make tax payments easier to manage. Taxpayers will be able to use one of four major credit cards to make payments by phone or on the Internet. The system is in the final stages of testing and could be available for use before the end of this month.

More and more requests for the option of using credit cards have come into the tax office over the past year. The tax office has looked at several options and found that Official Payments Corporation offers the use of their service at no expense to the county. Taxpayers wishing to pay with a credit card will be charged an approximate three percent fee at the time of the transaction. Using a credit card for payment will allow the taxpayer to split their payments into monthly payments instead of having to make one large tax payment.

The current economic times make it difficult to come up with large sums to pay out. The tax office does not promote the use of credit cards, however in comparison, the interest on credit accounts over a six month period is considerably less than the penalty and interest charged on a delinquent property tax for the same period of time.

This service will simply provide one more option to taxpayers for the management of their money. The credit cards that will be accepted are American Express, Mastercard, Discover and Visa. For more information on this pay-

ment option and when it will be available, please call the Coke County Tax Office at 453-2614.

At this time, only property taxes will be included in the credit payment option. The Texas Department of Transportation is currently working on an Internet vehicle registration system that is expected to be available to the public next year.

**Free Medical Emergency Cards**

Sorosis Study Club will again be offering free Medical Emergency Cards to the public from their booth at the Fort Chadbourne Days Festival to be held in the Bronte Park on June 24.

The cards, which are designed to be placed on the refrigerator, when completed, give pertinent medical information for each individual in the home. This information is vital for the ambulance workers in case of an emergency.

All area residents are encouraged to come by the Sorosis Club booth on June 24 and pick up a free Medical Emergency Card.

**Upcoming**

The Miles Young Farmers are presenting Team Roping Saturday, July 22, at the Granzin Arena in Miles, Texas. For more information call 915-468-2318 or 915-468-5341.

**Bronte Eastern Star Installation Held**

At the regular meeting of the Bronte Eastern Star, Chapter #1048, an impressive installation of officers was held on June 12, 2000. Earline Moore was installed as Worthy Matron and Jack Moore was installed as Worthy Patron. Serving as Associate Matron and Associate Patron will be Lois Loyd and Grady Coulter. The Installing Officer was Ettie Hubbard with Jeffie Roberts serving as Installing Marshall.

Chapter #1048 is looking forward to the leadership of Earline Moore for the balance of 2000 and into the year 2001.

The Bronte OES presented a Memorial Scholarship at the Commencement exercises of Bronte High School, May 26, 2000.

The Bronte OES will sponsor a birthday party for 4 residents of the Bronte Nursing Home, with gifts and birthday cake, June 20, at 4:00 P.M.

The Bronte OES will be participating in Fort Chadbourne Day serving homemade ice cream and homemade baked items.

Plans are being made for other projects during the year.

There were several OES members from other chapters who attended.

Delicious refreshments were enjoyed by everyone after the meeting.

**90th Birthday Celebrated**

Lillian Robbins celebrated her 90th birthday, Wednesday June 14th. Her family surprised her with a small family gathering with cake, homemade ice cream, festive balloons and gifts. Those in attendance were Ronnie and Carolyn Robbins of Midland, Sherry, Kaleb and Cody Jackson, Stephanie and McKenna Keele, all of San Angelo, and Alonzo and Kay Robbins of Bronte. A good time was had by all.

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**Death Notices**

**Fletcher**

William Bruce "Bill" Fletcher of San Angelo, born December 20, 1935, passed away Tuesday, June 20, 2000.

Bill is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Glenda Sparks Fletcher; a loving son, William Keith Fletcher; and a special daughter, Lanette M. Fletcher; brothers by marriage, Craig Sparks and Speedy Sparks, and their families; and many loving uncles, aunts, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Gladys Fletcher.

Services were held on Wednesday, June 21, 2000, at 2:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Bronte, with the Reverend Waide Messer officiating, assisted by Wayne Hulse. Masonic Rites followed at Fairview Cemetery in Bronte. Service were under direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

**Short**

Opal A. Short (92), of Robert Lee, died on Thursday, June 15, 2000 in the Shannon Medical Center Hospital.

There will be no services. Arrangements are with Shaffer Funeral Home. Mrs. Short was born on May 26, 1908 in Malvern, Arkansas.

Survivors include several nieces, nephews and stepchildren.

**Rainwater**

Ben C. Rainwater, 65, of San Angelo died Wednesday, June 14, 2000, in a local hospital. A memorial service was held on Friday, June 16, at the First Christian Church in San Angelo.

Ben is survived by his wife, Sue Rainwater of San Angelo; three sons, Kelly Rainwater of Big Lake, Randy Rainwater of

Robert Lee and Roy Rainwater of San Angelo; two sisters, Bobby Bengé of San Angelo and Verna Flippen of South Dakota; six grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; numerous nieces and nephews; and two step-grandchildren.

**McCrohan**

John Edward "Jack" McCrohan, 59, passed away at 5:45 a.m. Sunday, June 18, 2000, in Ballinger.

Jack was born May 22, 1941 in San Antonio.

In addition to his mother, survivors include his brothers, Charlie Jr. and spouse, Wyvon, of Miles, Michael and spouse, Diane, of Bethel, Ohio, and Dennis and spouse, Jacque of Bronte; his sisters, Sharon George and spouse, Clarence, of Gillett; nieces and nephews and many caregivers whom Jack considered his special friends.

Rosary service was held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, in Robert Massie Funeral Chapel. Funeral service was at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, at Robert Massie with Father Hubert Wade of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ballinger officiating. Burial followed in Calvary Cemetery in San Angelo.

*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 Reeves, 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 & 7 pm, Worship
- Southside Church of Christ**  
 PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston  
 (915) 453-2176  
 Frank J. Daniels, Preacher  
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School  
 11 am & 6 pm, Worship  
 Wed. 7 pm, Worship
- Robert Lee Baptist Church**  
 PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th  
 (915) 453-2724  
 Bro. Waide Messer, Pastor  
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School  
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship  
 Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church**  
 601 W. 10th  
 (915) 365-2687  
 Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor  
 Sat. 6 pm
- Victory Assembly of God**  
 6th & Houston  
 (915) 453-2208  
 Rev. Erma Johnson  
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School  
 10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship  
 Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting

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**Raymond Bloodworth**

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 Invites you to attend his

**80th Birthday Celebration**

*on Saturday, July 1, 2000*  
*from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm*  
*at the Recreation Hall (by swimming pool),*  
*Coke County Park, Robert Lee, Texas*

*No Gifts Please - (Only Cards, Letters and Mementos)*

*\*NOTE: After the party we will gather at the Recreation Hall for fun, food, fellowship, music, swimming, golfing, etc. You know how the "celebrity" loves to sit around the campfire and talk.*

**PLEASE COME AND BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!!**

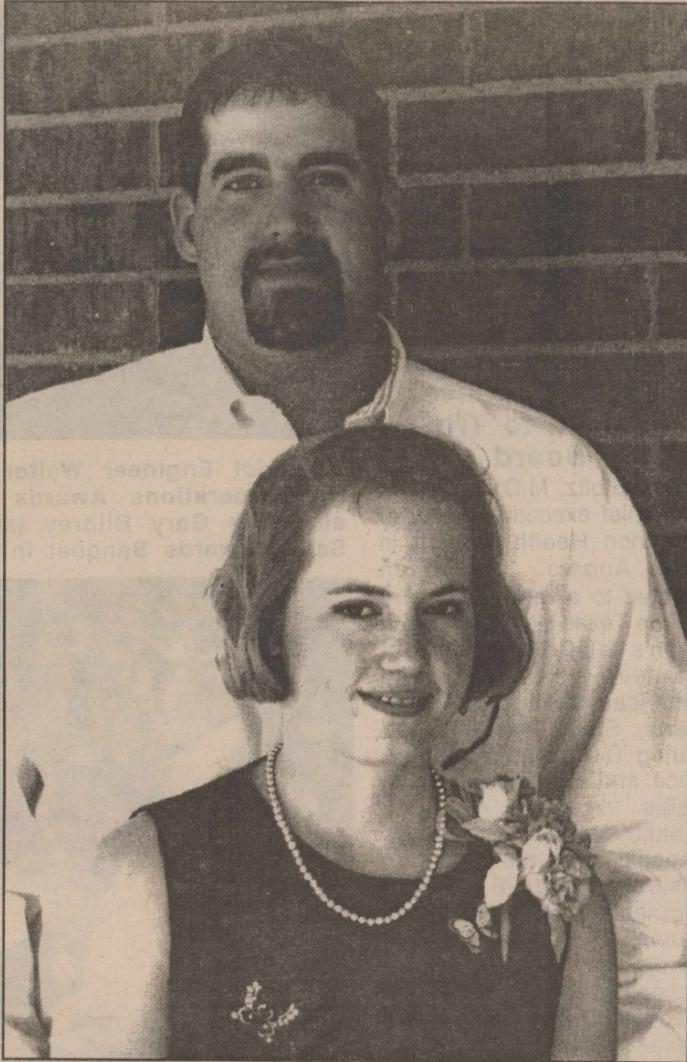


**Pitcock-Weatherbee Wedding Date Set**

Darron Judd Pitcock and Cathryn Anne Weatherbee will be married July 8, 2000 at the First United Methodist Church in Mertzon.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Jimmy and Jo Dale Weatherbee of Bartlesville, OK. She is a 1994 graduate of Odessa High School. She is attending Angelo State University and is employed by Simmons-Huggins in San Angelo.

The groom is the son of Darrel and Sharon Pitcock of Robert Lee. He is a 1994 graduate of Robert Lee High School and is attending Angelo State University. He is employed by Bell Fencing in San Angelo.



Darron Judd Pitcock & Cathryn Anne Weatherbee

**Bridal Shower Honors Heather Parks**

A bridal shower honoring Heather Parks, bride-elect of Kimble Middleton, was held on Thursday evening, June 15, at Diane's Chuckwagon restaurant in Robert Lee. Hostesses included Thelma Jo Hinnard, Cookie Burns, Kay Torres, Rosie Davis, Diane Johnson, Beth Prather, and Debbie Wilkes.

Fruit punch and cake were served to guests as they viewed an array of lovely gifts.

Special guests were the bride-elect's sisters, Shannon Parks and Jennifer Hayes.

Miss Parks is employed by the Christoval School District and Middleton by the City of Robert Lee. The couple will make their home in Robert Lee following their marriage on Saturday, June 24, at the Robert Lee Baptist Church.

Check out  
✓ Coke Co.  
Library

**Beat the Heat, Read**

A drawing was held at the Coke County Library Friday, June 23. Alyssa Bargley is the winner of the Cool Reader stadium cup. Readers can add their names for the drawing once for each book returned during the summer. Return four books, add four chances for the drawing.

Helen Keller's birthday is June 27. Herman Hess was born in July as was Jose Canseco. Another new saying is, "The brain is a computer; nothing in, nothing out." The library has programmable material for the brain.

**Mad as a Wet Hen! And other Funny Idioms** is a book new to the library. An idiom is a statement with a hidden meaning. "He's calling it sour grapes now," comes from an Aesop fable about a fox on a hot day who wanted to munch some grapes. He tried and tried to reach them, but gave up because he was lazy and it was hot. He made himself feel better by saying that the grapes were probably sour anyway.

"He's not worth his salt," means a person has not earned his salary. Ancient Roman soldiers used part of their pay to buy salt. Salt was hard to get but essential to health and it made food taste better. The word "salary" comes from the Latin word for salt, "sal."

Library hours are Tuesday, 8-12; Wednesday, 8-4; Thursday, 1-5; Friday, 8-12. Books may be returned in Bronte to the Main Street Market.

**"IT'S A GUY THING"**  
"It would take too long to explain."  
Translated: "I have no idea how it works."

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

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**FORT CHADBOURNE DAY**

June 24, 2000

*Schedule of Events*

**Friday, June 23, 2000**  
Softball Tournament  
*Begins Friday and continues through Saturday*

**Saturday, June 24, 2000**  
7:45 am - "Fun Run" Registration  
8 am - Arts, Crafts & Food Booths Open  
8:30 am - Fun Run Begins  
9 am - Local Businesses Open  
*Be sure to visit all our shops, grocery store, businesses & restaurants*  
10 am - Parade Line Up  
*At Bronte Health & Rehab Center*  
11:15 am - Welcome at the Pavilion  
11:30 am - Entertainment Begins  
*At the Pavilion*  
12 Noon - Fishing Rodeo Begins  
1, 3, & 5 pm - Tours of Fort Chadbourne  
*Departing from the Pavilion*  
2:30 pm - Auction

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Gallon Jug **\$1.99**

California Seedless **White Grapes**  
lb. **.79**

California Large Size **Sweet Peaches**  
lb. **.49**

Crisp **Head Lettuce**  
**.69** ea.

Selected Varieties **Coca-Cola or Sprite**  
6 pack, 1/2 liter bottles **\$1.99**

### Summer Months are Hottest Time for Vehicle Theft in Texas

The popular summer movie, "Gone in Sixty Seconds" is a story about the lives of two car thieves who are masters of their illegal trade. But according to the Texas Automobile Theft Prevention Authority/Texas Department of Transportation, the reality is that the typical car thief is a teenager between 15 and 19 years old, and car theft is hardly entertaining.

"In Texas, a car or truck is stolen every five-and-a-half minutes," said Gus De La Rosa, Director of A.T.P.A. "It disrupts people's lives, costs Americans billions of dollars, and can be dangerous. In fact, vehicle thefts outnumber other property crimes in our state by three to one."

But De La Rosa says these numbers can improve if Texans use a little common sense.

According to theft prevention experts, the simple act of locking your car and taking the keys can do a lot to lower the theft rate. A.T.P.A. statistics show half the cars stolen in Texas in 1998 were left unlocked.

"With more than 96,600 vehicles stolen in Texas in 1998," said De La Rosa, "you could cut that number dramatically simply by locking your car."

The Texas Automobile Theft Prevention Authority offers these other tips to keep vehicles from being stolen: never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running, always lock your vehicle and take your keys, keep all valuables and packages out of sight, use auto theft deterrents, such as car alarms, steering wheel and ignition column devices and kill switches, always park in a well-lit area, never leave a regular or spare set of keys in your vehicle, carry the vehicle's registration in your purse or wallet, and file titles away at home.

Statistics show pick-up trucks, SUVs and family sedans are prime targets to be stolen. According to A.T.P.A., pick-up trucks made by General Motors were the most stolen vehicles in Texas, followed closely by Ford pick-ups. Other makes and models rounding out the top ten were the Olds Cutlass, GM Suburban, GM Van, Dodge Pick-up, Jeep Cherokee, Toyota Camry and Oldsmobile 88.

Nationwide, vehicle theft is the most costly property crime in America with \$7.5 billion in annual losses.

"The Texas Automobile Theft Prevention Authority is working to keep vehicles where they belong-with their

owners," said De La Rosa. "Since it was founded in 1991, A.T.P.A. has reduced auto theft in Texas by 50%." De La Rosa adds with everyone's help, that number can be reduced even more.

For more auto theft prevention information, call 1-800-CAR-WATCH or visit [www.txwatchyourcar.com](http://www.txwatchyourcar.com).

### Drought and Rabies in Public Health Region 9/10

Rabies must be added to the long list of problems created by the drought. Due to the lack of water in many areas, animals tend to gather near those water sources that remain.

The concentration of infected and susceptible animals can result in more animals being exposed to rabies and developing the disease. These limited sources of water may be in remote areas on farm and ranch land or right in our backyards.

The average monthly cases of laboratory-confirmed animal rabies cases for this year in public health region 9/10 is double the monthly average for 1999.

The concentration of animals near available water sources may result in small but serious outbreaks of rabies. From November 1999 through March 2000 Terrell County reported twelve positive foxes and two positive bobcats in or near Sanderson. This outbreak resulted in one little girl being exposed to the disease by the attack of a rabid fox and receiving the post-exposure vaccinations.

Human exposures to rabies may occur even though no outbreak is recognized in the animal population, Pecos County has reported only two rabid animals this year but one of these animals, a stray dog, exposed seventeen people to the disease.

Fortunately, no person in this region has developed this fatal disease in many years.

The drought is beyond our control. However, the risk of being exposed to rabies can be reduced. All dogs and cats must be vaccinated against rabies every year, livestock which are in frequent close contact with people can also be vaccinated, in addition to protecting our pets and livestock, their vaccination creates a protective barrier between people and infected wild animals, never attempt to handle wild animals, never handle domestic animals with which you are not familiar or that are acting strange, this applies even to those pet animals offered for adoption and which have an unknown health and vaccination history, the populations of stray or unowned dogs and cats must be reduced (this can be as

basic as requiring owners to confine their pets to their property), do not leave dog or cat food and water in areas accessible to wild animals such as skunks, foxes and raccoons.

Rabies is an extremely serious disease and, combined with the drought conditions, becomes even more dangerous.

### San Angelo Health Care Executive Elected to THA Board

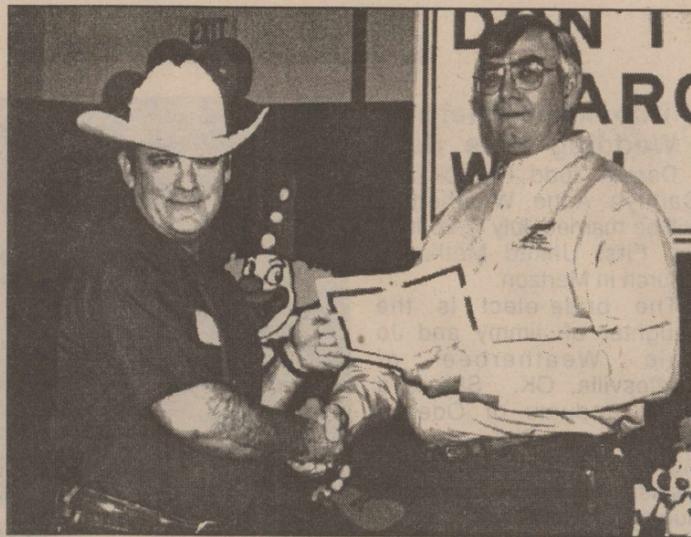
Dan Stultz, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Shannon Health System in San Angelo, has been elected to a three-year term on the Texas Hospital Association's 2000-2001 Board of Trustees. A fellow in the American College of Physicians, Stultz was installed during THA's Annual Conference and Expo, June 16 in Dallas.

Stultz has served in various capacities in the Shannon system since 1978 and is a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from The University of Texas Medical School in Houston. He is a graduate of The University of Texas Medical School in Houston and is board certified in internal medicine.

THA is the leadership organization and principal advocate for the state's hospitals and health care systems. Based in Austin, THA enhances its members' abilities to improve accessibility, quality and cost-effectiveness of health care for all Texans. THA represents nearly 600 institutional members, including 429 of the state's hospitals and health care systems. THA's members employ approximately 350,000 health care professionals statewide.

### Look Who's New Robert Riley Wyatt

Robert Riley Wyatt arrived June 16, 2000 at 8:04 p.m. at Childress Regional Hospital. He weighed 6 lbs. 5 oz. and was 21 inches long. Riley was welcomed home by big sister Kaylee Ann. Proud parents are Kim and James Wyatt of Chillicothe. Maternal grandparents are Ron and Beverly Sims of Bronte. Paternal grandparents are Johnny and Mary Wyatt of Wichita Falls. Great grandparents include Gladys Sims of San Angelo, Lee Craig of Blackwell, and Johnny and Millie Wyatt of Rochester.



District Engineer Walter G. McCullough presents Safe Operations Awards to TxDOT Coke County employee Gary Bilbrey (left) at the annual TxDOT Safety Awards Banquet in Sonora.



District Engineer Walter G. McCullough presents Safe Operations Awards to TxDOT Coke County employee Billy "Bucky" Sparks (right) at the annual TxDOT Safety Awards Banquet in Sonora.

### TxDOT Employees Honored

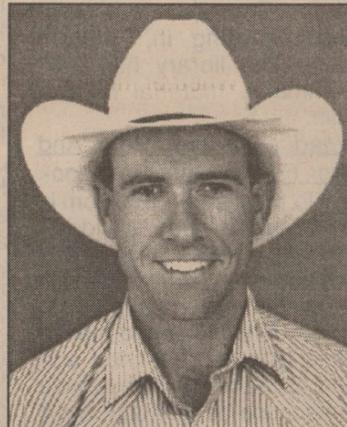
San Angelo District Employees from the Coke County Maintenance Section were recently honored at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Safety Awards Banquet in Sonora.

Employees who had safety records with at least 15 years for "safe operations" or "no injuries" were awarded certificates at the banquet.

Individuals who were presented safe operations certificates include Supervisor Gary Bilbrey for 27 years and Billy "Bucky" Sparks for 15 years.

Based on their safety records for the year, other employees with less than 15 years who were invited to attend the banquet were Sherry Denton, Terry Duncan, Kyle Long, Edmund Probst, Douglas Roberts, Ricky Ross, and Frank Sparks.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently awarded a Service Award to Douglas Roberts of



Douglas Roberts

the Coke County Maintenance Section.

Roberts was recognized with a framed certificate for 15 years of service with the department. The San Angelo District employee is a crew chief for the Coke County Maintenance Section.

## Thoughts on the Scripture

By Rev. Jim Reeves

*Hebrews 2:18 "Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted"*

When we want to learn how to handle something or to do something, the best place to turn to is to someone who has gone through the same thing or has the knowhow. Jesus came to dwell among us, in order to be able to show us how to handle the temptations of life. Who better to turn to, when we are experiencing difficulties, than to Jesus?

May God bless each one of you.  
Brother Jim

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Shaunna Myrick

**Myrick Attends FB Citizenship Seminar**

Attending the Texas Farm Bureau's 37th annual Citizenship Seminar in San Angelo June 5-9 was Shaunna Myrick of Sterling City.

Sponsored by the Coke-

**Hotline Launches Media Campaign During Summer Months**

On June 5th, the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (PRS) launched a statewide media campaign for the Texas Runaway Hotline, according to Hotline Director, Jay Smith. "Our campaign begins in June and continues throughout the summer months when most youth are out of school."

Smith said the campaign includes billboards, bus placards, and new public service announcements for television and radio directed toward troubled youth and families who may be in need of hotline services.

"In Texas, an estimated 100,000 children ages 7 to 17 run away annually," Smith said. "Whether they are in large cities or small towns, runaway youths are vulnerable to a wide variety of crimes including assault and sexual exploitation."

Hotline staff and volunteers provide crisis intervention, telephone counseling, and give callers more than 7,000 referrals each year for community services in their area. According to Smith, a primary referral source is the Services to At Risk Youth (STAR) Program, a no-cost service which provides crisis intervention, counseling, and emergency residential services to youth and families in all 254 Texas Counties.

The hotline is also working with the Texas Homeless Network, the Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS), other youth related organizations, and the media to educate the public about the runaway and homeless youth problem in Texas.

For additional information, call the hotline's toll-free number 1-888-580-HELP(4357) or visit the web site [www.texasrunaway.org](http://www.texasrunaway.org).

Sterling County Farm Bureau, she was among approximately 350 high school junior and senior students from over 150 counties across the state.

The purpose of the seminar is to provide the students with a better understanding of their American heritage and the capitalistic free enterprise system, according to John Stephens, Coke-Sterling County FB president.

"Farm Bureau-Your Host" was presented by Vernie Glasson, Texas Farm Bureau Executive Director, after the students were welcomed to Angelo State University.

Coleburn Davis, TFB Field Representative, Traci Gohmert, 1999 Miss Texas Farm Bureau, and Kelli Stuart, the 1999 TFB Speech contest winner, presented a program concerning Farm Bureau scholarship opportunities.

The students also participated in a program called "Congressional Insights", which allowed them to simulate a Congressional office and election.

Other speakers at this year's seminar and their subjects were as follows: David Vernon, Lubbock Christian University, "Basics of Free Enterprise"; Ronald Trowbridge, Hillsdale College, "The Constitution"; and Clebe McClary, a motivational speaker, "Press on Regardless".

In addition, the students participated in a panel discussion led by Ron Trowbridge and David Vernon followed by a question and answer session on "Our Rights, Our Freedom, Our Responsibility".

The students were entertained on Thursday evening by Sky Shivers, a cowboy storyteller and western humorist and recipient of the Will Rogers Award for Storyteller/Humorist of the Year, which is presented by the Academy of Western Artists.

**Wilkes Receives Young Author Award**

Clint Wilkes is a second grader attending Dexheim Elementary School in Dexheim, Germany. He was chosen along with other students to represent Dexheim Elementary at the Eleventh Annual Kaiserslautern District Young Author Conference. The conference was held on May 5, 2000 at the Ramstein High School located at Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany. After eleven years, Kaiserslautern District students, first graders through seniors, have attended and produced approximately 30,000 authored and illustrated books. Additionally, more than 20 professional authors/illustrators have visited the district to celebrate student accomplishments since the program's inception.

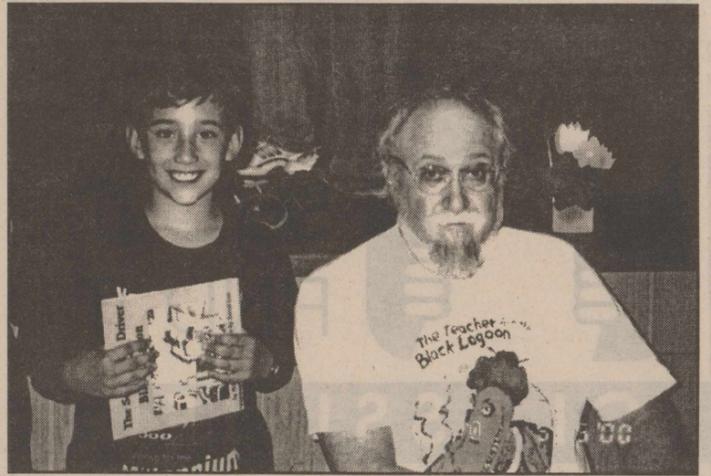
This years theme for the conference was "Writing in the Millennium".

Clint was honored to represent his class with his book titled, *The Kangaroo Mouse*. The day consisted of attending special scheduled sessions led by the professional authors/illustrators who were invited to celebrate in this year's conference. Clint was happy to meet all of the authors. They were: Walter Dean Myers, Deborah Nourse Lattimore, Michael Thaler, Laura Lee Thaler, and Herman Zimmermann.

Clint was especially thrilled to meet Mike Thaler, the author of *The Teacher From The Black Lagoon* and other "Black Lagoon" books. At the end of the day, the students were able to receive autographs from the professional authors/illustrators.

Clint enjoys reading and writing. He is the son of Jeffrey and Leticia Wilkes. His brother and sister, Daylon and Rainy, enjoy listening to him read the many stories he writes. His proud grandparents are Doug and Debbie Wilkes of Silver, Texas and Alfonso and Lydia Calderon of Garland, Texas.

Clint received an award for his book signed by all the professional authors attending the Young Authors Conference. He was also recognized at his school for the wonderful work he has accomplished this school year. Way to go Clint!



Clint Wilkes, age 8, is thrilled after author Mike Thaler (right) autographs his book, *The Bus Driver From the Black Lagoon*.

**Social Security Earnings Test Eliminated**

Social Security beneficiaries who have reached full retirement age (currently age 65) can now receive their full benefits regardless of how much they earn. Recent legislation eliminates the earnings limit beginning with the month an individual reaches his or her full retirement age. The new law became effective January 1, 2000.

"Beneficiaries who are 65 years young should be allowed to contribute their energy, talent and experience to the workplace without being penalized for doing so," said Fredi Franki, Social Security manager in San Angelo, Texas.

Eligible beneficiaries will re-

ceive any retroactive payments (averaging about \$3,500) in May and regular monthly benefits beginning in June. Everything will be automatic, so seniors won't need to contact Social Security.

"We are working hard to ensure that Social Security beneficiaries who are affected by the new law will have money in their pockets quickly," continued Franki.

The earnings test will still apply to beneficiaries younger than full retirement age.

Social Security is undertaking an extensive public information campaign to let the public know about the new legislation, including notices to affected beneficiaries, materials for advocacy groups and updates on its website, [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov), and in their publications.

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47a-1tc

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47a-1tp

**FOR SALE**

Large fixer upper house on 2 lots, barn and pens, on Franklin Street, Bronte. 25% below appraisal district price. Call 473-3009.

47b-2tc

**FOR SALE BY OWNER**

3 bedroom, 2 bath, central heat and air, 2 big lots, fireplace. 805 West 11th, Robert Lee. Call 453-4630 for more information.

47a-2tp

**FOR SALE**

95 Nissan Altima, power, air, cruise, new tires, \$6900. John Driggers, 473-3291.

47a-1tp

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**

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46a-tnc

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44a-tnc

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43a-tnc

**OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN**  
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19b-tnc

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39a-1tnc

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10a-tnc

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34a-tnc

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37a-tnc

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34b-tnc

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32b-tnc

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40-8tp

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02b-tnc

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46a-4tc

**ROBERT LEE ISD**

is taking applications for substitute teachers and bus drivers for the school year 2000-2001. Applications may be obtained at the Superintendent's office, 1323 Hamilton, between the hours of 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

46a-2tc

**BRONTE ISD**

is accepting applications for a Special Education Secretary/Aide at the CCJJC. Contact Byron Griffin, Adm. 915-473-5700 Extension 141. This position will be open until filled. Bronte ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

47b-2tc

**BRONTE ISD**

is accepting applications for a teacher's aide at the Coke County Juvenile Justice Center. Contact Byron Griffin, Adm. at 915-473-5700 Ext. 141. This position will be opened until filled. Bronte ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

47b-2tc

**BRONTE ISD**

is accepting applications for a head of maintenance. Maintenance and mechanical background preferred. Contact Alan Richey, Superintendent, 915-473-2511. Fax # 915-473-2313. Position open until filled. Bronte ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

47b-2tc

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CNAs needed for all shifts. Full time and part time. Competitive pay. Contact Sarah Lee, DON, Senior Citizens Nursing Home, Winters. Phone 754-4566.

36b-tnc

**THE CITY OF ROBERT LEE**

is accepting applications for the position of office clerk. Office skills and computer experience required. High School diploma or the equivalent is required. Applications can be picked up at City Hall and will be

accepted through 5:00 pm June 26 or mail resume to Box 26, Robert Lee, Texas 76945.

The City of Robert Lee is an equal opportunity employer. 46a-1tc

**GARAGE SALES**

**GARAGE SALE**  
Saturday, June 24. 8 am - 2 pm. 118 Key St., Bronte. 47a-1tp

**GARAGE SALE**  
Friday and Saturday. 309 E. 6th, Robert Lee. 47a-1tp

**MOVING SALE**  
We are moving and can't take all our junk. Maybe you can find a treasure. Everything must go. 1521 Austin in Robert Lee, Saturday 8 am - 12 pm. 47a-1tc

**GARAGE SALE**  
Large ceramic pig collection, shelves, antiques, clothes, kitchen items, pictures and miscellaneous. Beautiful cosmetics 20% off. Donna and Kim Hall. Corner of Franklin and McCaulley Streets, Bronte. Saturday, June 24th. 8 am - 1 pm. 47b-1tp

**CARD OF THANKS**

**THANK YOU**  
to all our dear Bronte friends for the kind expressions of sympathy shown to us recently during our loss. Your friendship is very important to us.

Larry and Merle Kelso and family 47b-1tc

**CARD OF THANKS**  
The coaches and team members of the Robert Lee Little League Softball would like to say "Thank You" to each member of our community for their generosity and support of the league and concession stand. A special thanks to Cracker Barrel, C&W, and Ivey Motor Co. for their donations.

Personally, I would like for each coach, team mom, and concession stand worker to know how much I appreciate their hard work. It takes each one of us to have a successful season for our kids. Thank You.

Ricky Ross, President Robert Lee Little League 47a-1tc

**NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given of an Open Budget Hearing for East Coke County Hospital District for the fiscal year July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001. The hearing will be held Thursday, June 22, 2000 at 6:30 pm in the nursing home board room. 46b-2tc



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### Domestic Ticks Can Carry Deadly Livestock Disease

For years, ranchers, veterinarians and livestock health officials have been vigilant for foreign ticks capable of carrying dangerous animal diseases. That's not enough, admonishes Dr. Pete Teel, a Texas A&M University tick specialist who says Texas' homegrown ticks also could transmit deadly infections.

"If infected tropical bont ticks from the Caribbean introduced heartwater into Texas, our native Gulf Coast tick could become infected, making disease eradication extremely, if not nearly impossible, to wipe out," said Dr. Teel. He described heartwater as an acute and usually fatal tick-borne disease that affects ruminants--cud-chewing animals such as cows, sheep, goats and deer.

Dr. Teel is building a database and "mapping" the migration of native ticks, particularly the Gulf Coast tick. He pointed out that this tick lived only 50-100 miles inland until the 1960's, when it was detected in Kansas and Oklahoma. Since then, it has been found in 50 of Oklahoma's 77 counties, and in 19 of Kansas' 105 counties.

"We can fight an outbreak of a tick-borne disease more effectively, if we know where susceptible ticks live," said Dr. Teel. He urged livestock producers, veterinarians and others to send tick specimens for identification to the state federal laboratory of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock health regulatory agency.

"Adult Gulf Coast ticks, which prefer animals' head and ear regions, appear in June, and populations peak from August through October," he said. "It's 'prime time' for collection and submission." He reminded ranchers to check not only domestic livestock, but exotic hoofstock as well. Feral hogs, he noted, also are notorious tick "toters," known to carry Gulf Coast, Lone Star and American dog ticks.

Free "ectoparasite collection vials" or submission kits for ticks and maggots (worms) are available from TAHC inspectors or the Area 6 office in Lampasas at 1-800-658-6642, feed stores, county agents or veterinarians. The kits, which include a short questionnaire, are pre-addressed and may be mailed at no cost. Laboratory staff will identify the ticks, and if necessary, forward the specimen to other federal laboratories for further examination. If submitters provide a return address, a report will be provided.

Dr. Teel said heartwater disease was confined to Africa until 1830, when cattle carrying infected ticks were shipped to the Caribbean. Also migrating were cattle egrets. These birds "hang out" with grazing cows and have airlifted ticks to at least 15 islands. Dr. Teel said that statistics indicate five out of 50 Caribbean egrets carry at least 10 tropical bont ticks, some of which could transmit heartwater. Researchers during 1988-1991 tracked 720 dye-marked egrets from Antigua and 303 marked birds

from Guadeloupe. The birds traveled among 14 islands, and one Guadeloupe-origin bird was spotted in the Florida Keys.

To become involved in a heartwater disease outbreak, Texas' native Gulf Coast tick, must be exposed as a larvae or nymph (baby stage) and transmit infection in the next phase of its three-host lifecycle. Although young Gulf Coast ticks typically feed on ground-dwelling birds, Dr. Teel said immature ticks also can feed on cattle. If they select a heartwater-infected animal, the ticks would become infected and transmit heartwater to its next host, setting up a disastrous scenario.

"International livestock movements give us reason for concern about tick-borne diseases like heartwater," said Dr. Teel. A black rhinoceros shipped to Texas in the late 1980's, he said, was found to be carrying a potential vector of heartwater. In 1989, African-imported ostriches arrived infested with Hyalomma ticks, efficient vectors for a variety of diseases. Recently in Florida, a number of imported reptiles and tortoises have sported a variety of foreign ticks, he said.

"The introduction of a tick-borne disease like heartwater is always a possibility," said Dr. Teel. "We must be prepared to fight a foreign animal disease, that could be spread farther by our own pests."

### Electric Utilities Provide Payment Assistance Options

If you're having trouble paying your electric bill, your utility offers payment assistance programs for which you may qualify.

Electric service is no longer a luxury and often the people who need the service most are those who can least afford to pay for it.

Many electric utilities offer deferred payment plans for those who cannot pay their entire bill and may delay disconnection for customers

trying to pay their bill. Help is also available from many civic groups, charitable organizations and churches in your community. Contact your utility or the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) at 512-475-1099 for information. TDHCA also distributes funds to community organizations for weatherization projects to repair and make more energy efficient the homes of low-income customers.

If someone who resides in your home has a medical condition that would be jeopardized if your electric service were disconnected, contact your utility. Most will postpone disconnection of your service and try to arrange a payment plan.

A home energy audit is the first step in assessing energy usage and evaluating what measures should be taken to make a home more energy efficient. The audit's home inspection can pinpoint where a home is losing energy and determine the efficiency of its heating and cooling systems.

Currently, Texans can call their electric utility to get a free energy audit. The cost of the audit is paid for through the electric rates. But Senate Bill 7, the electric restructuring law approved last year by the Texas Legislature will change this. The law requires investor-owned electric utilities to unbundle their activities into separate units: a power generation company; a retail electric provider; and a regulated transmission and distribution company. Utilities must also separate business activities into competitive and

regulated components.

Beginning September 1, 2000 energy audits will be considered a competitive service, and will no longer be provided by electric utilities.

Under new rules adopted by the Public Utility Commission (PUC), utilities must offer incentive programs to independent service providers who install energy efficiency measures and services for retail electric customers.

For more information on payment assistance programs or if you have other questions relating to your electric service, call the PUC toll free at 1-888-PUC-TIPS (1-888-782-8477).

You may also call the PUC Office of Customer Protection at P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3266, email at customer@puc.state.tx.us or visit the PUC Web site at www.puc.state.tx.us.

The PUC encourages competition and customer choice while ensuring electric and telephone operations, services and rates are fair and reasonable.

### Upcoming

Heavens Jubilee Southern Gospel Ministries will be at the Blackwell United Methodist Church Friday, June 23 at 7:00 PM.

### Free Pregnancy Testing Offered

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### Emergency Medical Services, Individual Responses Vital To Saving Lives

9-1-1.

Those three numbers often mean the difference between life and death, day in and day out. Emergency medical help can be reached by telephone most everywhere in Texas 24 hours a day. These emergency response teams provide a lifeline from the ill and injured to medical care, according to Kathy Perkins, chief of the Bureau of Emergency Management at the Texas Department of Health (TDH).

"Nearly 45,000 trained, certified emergency personnel are part of the Texas Emergency Medical Services," Perkins said. "These highly trained medics treat patients from the emergency scene to the hospital and are an integral part of our emergency care system for victims of sudden and serious illness or injury."

Minutes count in an emergency, and what individuals do in an emergency situation even before EMS arrives makes a significant difference to an ill or injured person, Perkins said.

Recognizing a medical emergency is one of the first steps. Auto wrecks, chest pains or serious falls with broken bones signal emergency conditions to many people. But other situations are not so obvious. Call 9-1-1 immediately if any of these conditions are present: serious bleeding, unconsciousness, signs of a heart attack, burns, neck or spine injuries, not breathing, choking, broken bones, head, chest or abdominal injuries.

Common sense and knowing the victim also are important to assessing an emergency, Perkins said. "Factors such as stressful events, a pre-existing medical condition or abnormal behavior may signal an emergency situation exists for an individual."

How you make the emergency call also is important. Remain calm or have another person make the call. Give the 9-1-1 dispatcher whatever facts are requested. This information usually will include the address of the emergency and possibly a nearby cross street, your name and the telephone number at your location, the name of the ill or injured person and what is wrong. Have someone wait near the street or in a parking lot to direct EMS to the victim. Most important—stay on the line until the dispatcher tells you to hang up.

Remember not to move the ill or injured person unless that person is in immediate danger. Do not give the person anything to eat or drink and do not allow him or her to smoke. Keep the person calm and still.

The Texas Trauma System consists of 173 trauma centers across Texas, coordinating a patient's in-hospital care so that the ill or injured person receives the type of care needed.

"While we can be proud of the emergency medical services in Texas," Perkins said, "prevention is still the best way to avoid accidental or premature death." Learning CPR and the Heimlich maneuver are ways to begin. Other healthy lifestyle habits also help. These include: using seatbelts and child safety seats; keeping immunizations current; eating right

and exercising; driving at safe speeds; avoiding alcohol use while driving; keeping guns locked in a safe place.

To receive a copy of TDH's brochure "When Minutes Count: A Citizen's Guide to Medical Emergencies," contact the TDH Bureau of Emergency Management at 1100 W. 49th St., Austin 78756 or call 512-834-6700.

### Apprenticeship in The Folk Arts Program

Texas Folklife Resources is currently accepting applications for its Apprenticeship program. The Apprenticeships in the Folk Arts program encourages the continuation of Texas traditional arts by providing master artists funds for training qualified apprentices. Texas traditional arts, also called the folk arts, are those art forms that are learned informally and are often passed on from generation to generation. The application deadline is September 1, 2000.

Through the apprenticeship program, TFR will make a limited number of monetary awards for qualified appren-

tical traditions, dance, and music. Most awards are made to individual masters and apprentices, but group apprenticeships are encouraged when appropriate. All participants must be residents of Texas. Individuals seeking guidelines and other application materials should contact Caroline Herring, Apprenticeship program coordinator, at Texas Folklife Resources, 13 S. Congress, Austin, Texas 78704, (512) 441-9255.

Most master traditional artists have spent a lifetime learning and performing their art form. Apprentices must already have some skill in the folk art form presented for study. Apprentices must also already know the master artist with whom they want to study. Together, the apprentice and master artist should present a plan for a six to nine-month intensive period of study. The highest priority of this program is to award projects which pass on a folk art rooted in the artists' communities. Preference is given to projects perpetuating folk arts whose existence is especially endangered.

The Apprenticeship program supports all genres of the folk arts, including crafts,



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