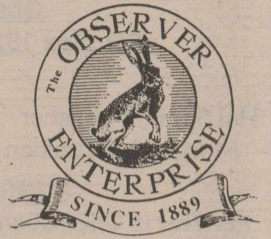


THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

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Serving Coke County

Vol. 112, No. 48

Friday, June 30, 2000

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

BHRC slates auction, fireworks

Bronte Health and Rehab Center will be having their annual auction prior to the big fireworks display on Saturday, July 1st. The activities will be held on the south side of the Center and will begin at 7 p.m.

The auxiliary will be serving ice cream and music will be provided by Marvin Kelsey of San Angelo. There will be a variety of items to be auctioned including many delicious homebaked goodies. If you have an item or a baked good that you would like to donate

for the sale, please bring it to the Center on Saturday, or during the week if that is more convenient.

All proceeds from the auction go to benefit the residents of BHRC. A huge fireworks display will begin at dusk courtesy of the BHRC Auxiliary, BHRC Center, and the many generous citizens and businesses of Bronte and Bronte Volunteer Fire Department. Come out to visit, participate in the auction and witness our celebration of our Independence!!!

Food Closet seeks your support

The Coke County Food Closet, a ministry of the Coke County Ministerial Alliance, has been widely used over the last several months, but has been heavily used during the last two weeks or so. Due to the heavy demand upon the food supplies, the Food Closet is in need of community support to keep the Closet supplied.

While all food items are welcomed, Closet particularly needs the following items: canned meats (such as spam, tuna, etc.), dried beans of all kinds, peanut butter, jellies, pasta items, dried cereal, catsup, cooking oil, mustard, salad dressing, macaroni and cheese boxes, packages of snack crackers, canned milk, instant potatoes, warm cere-

als, baby formula and crackers.

All food items can be brought to the fellowship hall of the First Methodist Church in Robert Lee. The Food Closet is open on Thursdays from 3:00 until 5:30 p.m. and special arrangements can be made for other times. Food can also be delivered to those individuals unable to come to the Closet. For further information, call 453-2417.

Gospel Singing

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



These children don't seem too upset by the caption "You Can Catch Us" on the Little Fish Child Care Center float during the Fort Chadbourne Day Parade in Bronte June 24.

S.O.A.R. Camp

The Mesquite Country Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse will be hosting S.O.A.R. Camp in Bronte, July 10-14, at the Bronte Community Center. S.O.A.R., Summer Outreach And Recreation, is an extension of Sunshine Pals, a drug and alcohol prevention program taught during the school year. This camp is designed for children in the 1st through 6th grades.

Campers will go through 10 sessions of the curriculum on alcohol and drug abuse, self esteem, decision making, and much more. There will also be arts and crafts, games and many other activities. There is no charge for the camp and a hot lunch will be provided. The camp will go from 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Registration may be taken at camp or you may call 453-9721 or 1-800-588-3967.

City Office Closing Trash Service Schedule

The Robert Lee City Hall will close July 3-4 to observe the July 4th Holiday. The landfill will be open on Saturday, July 1. Due to the holiday, trash service on Tuesday, July 4th will change to Wednesday, July 5. City Hall will reopen on Wednesday July 5th. Have a safe July 4th.

Fireworks Banned in Robert Lee

Robert Lee City Officials wish to remind residents of the City that all fireworks are banned within the city limits. Any person that violates this ban may be issued a citation and fined. Residents are urged to call the local law enforcement to report any violations.

County Observes Holiday

The Coke County courthouse in Robert Lee will be closed both Monday and Tuesday, July 3rd and 4th, next week in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Regular business hours will resume on Wednesday, July 5th.

Bronte FFA to Sponsor Rabies Clinic

Bronte FFA is going to sponsor a Rabies Clinic, on July 6th, starting at 1:30 in the afternoon. The clinic will be administered by the staff from Pioneer Veterinary Clinic in Winters. The clinic will be held in front of the new high school until about 4:30 or 5:00. Most all vaccinations for dogs and cats shall be administered at a minimal fee. For information or cost, please contact Pioneer Veterinary Clinic at Winters.

Record Books Due

Any 4-H members who would like to do a record book, please contact the office for more details and forms. Record books are due July 5th.

Community Meeting Fire Truck Needs

In response to concerns presented by the Fire Department of Robert Lee, the City Council will hold a Community Meeting this Thursday, June 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Court Room of the Courthouse. All citizens are urged to attend for the purpose of discussing the expense of purchasing a fire truck for the City.

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.

Notice of Meeting Adoption of Drought Contingency Plan

On July 13, 2000, the Bronte City Council will consider and adopt a Drought Contingency Plan. The Public is invited to attend the meeting and make their views known.

The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall, 114 South Washington, Bronte, Texas.



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Fireworks Safety Tips

Robert Lee City Fire Marshal Bud Thompson, would like to remind all residents that fireworks are illegal within the city limits of Robert Lee. Families are preparing for the Fourth of July outings and picnics. Many will use fireworks during their celebrations. If possible, leave fire-

works to the professionals. If you do set them off, follow these important safety tips.

Child safety comes first, do not allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.

Adults should read and follow all warnings and instructions before using fireworks.

Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks. Sparklers burn at such high temperatures that they can burn clothing.

Light your fireworks on a smooth flat surface, out in the open, away from structures, dry grass, and flammable materials.

Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned, it can go off in your hand.

Keep a garden hose or bucket of water handy in case of a malfunction or fire.

Fireworks are dangerous and can cause serious burns and eye injuries. Each year over 8,000 children and adults are injured from fireworks.

The summer fire season is here. With the recent rain, the grass is growing and the hot temperatures will dry it. Fire hazard will again be high. Fire prevention is everyone's responsibility. Douse your camp fire, before leaving it. Be careful with cigarettes, field strip them when out of doors and ash trays are not available.

Remember fireworks are illegal within the city limits of Robert Lee and the downtown business district of Bronte.

Death Notices

Gesch

Ernest Wilhelm Gesch, 94, died Friday, June 23, in the Coke County Care Center in Robert Lee where he had been a resident since 1993. Funeral service was conducted Monday, June 26, at Johnson's Funeral home with burial in Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens.

He is survived by two sisters, Emelia Gesch of Taylor, Tx, and Minnie (Mrs. Alex Whitliff) of Corpus Christi, Tx; his three sons and their wives, Willie and Blanch Gesch of Morgan, Tx, Ernest Jr. and Joan Gesch of Eola and Eugene and Betty Gesch of Paint Rock; numerous nephews and nieces; 14 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren. Five stepsons and their families also survive, including Robert Fulghum and wife, Esta of Robert Lee.

Commissioners' Court Meetings

Commissioners' Court met in regular session on June 12th in the courtroom in Robert Lee. A quorum of members, Judge Walker, Commissioners Burns, Percifull, McCutchen and Sharon Lee, deputy clerk were present.

The following business was conducted. The minutes were approved and bills were paid. The Extension report, Trappers report and Tax A/C reports were presented. The court voted to leave the fireworks ban as is. The second budget amendment on health insurance claims was approved. After discussion, the Court voted to leave the retirement system as is. Private road request from Courtney King was approved. Meeting was adjourned.

On June 20th, the Court met with Bronte and Robert Lee City Councils. The road and water situations in Coke County were discussed. The meeting was adjourned.

The Court met June 26th in special session. All members and Mary Grim, Clerk were present. The minutes were approved and bills were paid. The Treasurer's affidavit was approved. The Court voted to switch from Pepsco to Valic on deferred comp for employees. Judge Walker recognized Kristy Roe for being elected President of the Tax Assessor/Collector's Association. The Tax A/C report was given. A copy machine for the Bronte Senior Center will not be purchased at this time. Mary Grim reported that the list of election judges from the party chairman has to be turned in by June 30th. These judges will be ap-



Ashlee (left) and Erin Millican placed second with their method demonstration, "Bossie's Best Shot," in the dairy division at the recent State 4-H Roundup. Over 5,000 4-Hers from across Texas competed in the state competition. Ashlee and Erin's presentation demonstrated the proper procedure and correct vaccinations for a profitable dairy herd.

pointed at the next meeting.

The Court approved a \$5,000.00 line item transfer for Precinct 1 and a budget amendment for health insurance. The Bronte park budget, a new lawn mower for Bronte park and plans for street project were discussed. An on-site sewage facility review with Charles McDonald will be held sometime the first 2 weeks of July. The Court voted to retain the current \$10.00 fee to road and bridges. Private road request from Charles Kennedy was approved. A budget workshop was held. Meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be July 10th at 9:00 o'clock a.m. The public is invited.

WCCCD Memorials

The following memorials have been received by West Coke County Community Development.

Bob Wrinkle

Joe David and Terri Key David and Alene Key Jeff and Connie Gulley Mr. & Mrs. Bobby J. Bynum Donations and memorials to the organization may be made by mail to WCCCD, P.O. Box 226, Robert Lee, Tx 76945.

Churches of Robert Lee

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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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Thoughts on the Scripture
By Rev. Jim Reeves

Jeremiah 33:3 "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

Sometimes, making a decision can be very difficult. We often do not know the outcome of the decision and none of us can know what the future will bring. But God assures us that we will have help in making our decisions.

May God bless each one of you.
Brother Jim



The Bronte Health and Rehab Center float "In the Good Old Summer Time" was a true crowd pleaser during the Fort Chadbourne Day Parade in Bronte June 24.

Funding for Coke County Schools

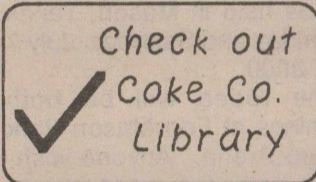
Congressman Charlie Stenholm announced recently that school districts in Coke County have received E-rate funding from the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). This money will be used to help the schools develop telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections. Thus far this year, schools and libraries in the 17th District have received over \$1.7 million in E-rate funding.

In Coke County, the following schools received funding: Bronte I.S.D. received \$2,511.60 and Robert Lee I.S.D. received \$7,427.46.

"I support programs like the E-rate that result in direct services to rural areas," Congressman Stenholm commented. "By helping rural and under-funded school districts provide current technology for their students, the E-rate is helping to ensure that equal educational opportunities are available to students across the nation, regardless of location or income."

The E-rate program was created as a part of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 to ensure that all eligible schools and libraries in the United States have affordable access to modern telecommunications and information services. Application is open to all public and private K-12 schools and public libraries.

Discount funding is calculated according to a school's level of economic disadvantage (based on percentage of students eligible for the national school lunch program) and their location, rural or urban.



"Beat the Heat"

Each summer reader is able to register for a weekly drawing for a "Cool Reader" stadium cup. Last week's winner was Kaitlin Moore. For each book returned a reader can add his or her name to the drawing. There are three cups left. At the end of the program, July 28, all names will be added together for the final, big drawing.

Although the library will be closed July 4 (Tuesday) there are three days to get good books to "Beat the Heat." There will be a treat-of-the-week and some really good car stickers.

July 4 is, of course, Independence Day. July 5 is the day bikini swimsuits debuted in Paris in 1946. July 6 is the birthday of Beatrix Potter, July 7 is the birthday of sci-fi author Robert Heinlein, and Raffi was

born July 8. July has also been proclaimed Anti-boredom Month. What better place to celebrate than the Coke County Library.

There is another new saying, "The brain is a muscle. Reading is its treadmill." Exercise at the library.

Library hours are 8-12, Tuesday: 8-4, Wednesday: 1-5, Thursday: and 8-12, Friday. The library will be closed July 4, Tuesday.

Finalists for New Superintendent

Robert Lee ISD has narrowed its search for a new superintendent down to 6 finalists. The six finalists are: John Ferguson, Ross Hord, John Weldon Koepf, Roddy McIver, Jim Swinney and Roger Walker. The name of new superintendent will be announced on July 10th.

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Directions: From Hwy 277, turn east on Park Road at the Town & Country

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the West Texas Rehabilitation Center

Harmon-Sparks Reunion

The families of the late Joe Cephus and Clara Belle (Sparks) Harmon and the late Mathew Marion and Almeda King Sparks gathered Saturday, June 17, 2000, for their 61st annual reunion. The reunion was held in the Recreation Center in Robert Lee. There were 80 relatives and friends of the family present.

The late Thomas Rudolph (T.R.) Harmon was the son of the late Joe Cephus and Clara Belle (Sparks) Harmon. The late Amanda Elvira (Mandy) Sparks Harmon was the daughter of the late Mathew Marion and Almeda King Sparks. The family of T.R. and Mandy Harmon present for the 61st reunion were J.D. and Mary Jo Harmon, Inez Harmon Hamm, Nola Harmon, Olean Poor, Bobby and Jeffie Roberts, Douglas, Denise, Kacee, and James Roberts, Marshall, Sheri, and Stewart Millican, Joe and DeeAnna Harmon, Bill and Linda Burns, and Suzann Johnson all of Robert Lee. Daniel and Justin of Mississippi.

Alf and Dorothy Harmon, Ethel Harmon, Randle Harmon, Jackie and Darlene Boyd, Wayne and Dorene Mashburn, Rena, Jessica, and Brady Johnson and Brady's friend, Jerrel and Lavelle Harmon, Brint and Robin Harmon and Jason Harmon all of San Angelo; Lawana Perry of Carlsbad; Jerry Harmon of Weatherford, Darwin and Joan Harmon of Big Spring; Milton (Bill) and Dorothy Harmon of Waxahachie; Clint, Sharon, Kelcie and Shayla Harmon, and James, Stormy, and Carley Senger all of Midland. Sweetie Villegas, Carley's friend.

Also, Sharon Rohmfeld, Debra, Brooke, Clint, and Gina Wilde, Judy, Travis, and Blake Holle all of Ballinger; Doug, Marlane, Cameron and Madison Burns of Alpine; Nick, Kim, Kristal, Michael and Cody Harmon of League City; James and Blanche Harmon of Benbrook; Lauren Hamerton and friend Mandy Bergeron both of Houston; and Jessie Harmon's cousin and wife, Jim and Dorothy Clay of Anson.

Other descendants of the late Joe C. and Clara Belle (Sparks) Harmon present were daughter-in-law, Mrs. George (Ruby) Harmon and her daughter, Shirley Harmon-Lay both of Midland. Mrs. Ruby Harmon's granddaughter, Candie Thompson and her great grandson, Brandon Thompson of Oglesby.

The only descendent of the late Mathew Marion and Almeda King Sparks present was Marion Luther Sparks of San Angelo.

The "The Harmon-Sparks 60th Reunion" family cookbook was composed and completed by Stormy Senger, printed and ready for sale at this reunion.

Douglas Roberts barbecued all the meat for the reunion. Dorene and Stormy conducted a short meeting and the family voted to have Douglas cook again next year since he did such a good job. Delicious food, visiting, golfing and swimming were enjoyed by all. The weather was

cooler and about 1/2 inch of rain fell that morning. Plans are to continue having the reunion on the Saturday nearest to the first Sunday in June.

Floyd Harmon, age 87, the oldest of the Harmon-Sparks family living and his wife, Jessie, grieved because they were unable to attend for the first time in the 61 years. Floyd had carotid artery surgery that morning at 7:00 and remained in ICU (regular procedure for this type of surgery) until Sunday morning.

More Census Visits

Although most of the information-gathering for Census 2000 is scheduled to end this summer, some households will be contacted by a census worker later in the summer and even the fall. A small, specially-trained group of census interviewers will be revisiting various households to check how accurately and completely the Census Bureau has done its work.

These visits are part of the Census Bureau's quality-assurance operation, which is called Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation (A.C.E.). Only a small sample of addresses have been selected for these follow-up interviews. The survey is designed to find people who were missed or who were double-counted in the earlier phases of census work.

"We are asking the public for a little more patience and understanding," explains

Dallas Regional Director Alfonso E. Mirabal. "These follow-up visits are one way we catch mistakes and ensure that our population count is as complete and accurate as possible."

In interviews that should take no more than 10 minutes, the A.C.E. enumerators will ask about who lived at a particular residence on April 1st (Census Day) and who is living at the address now. The enumerators will not ask to come inside and are happy to do the interview at the door.

A.C.E. enumerators will be displaying official U.S. Department of Commerce identification badges. Nevertheless, the Census Bureau invites anyone with questions about the identity or purpose of a Census interviewer to call the A.C.E. office toll-free number between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. The toll-free number is 1-888-215-9992.

Because the U.S. Congress considers census information so important, the public's participation in the census is required by law (Title 13, U.S. Code). In turn the same law requires the Census Bureau to guard the confidentiality of all information it gathers about any individual or household. If a census worker violated this law, they would face a term of up to five years in federal prison and/or a fine of up to \$250,000. Therefore, protecting people's confidentiality is priority No. 1 for the U.S. Census Bureau.



These area girls participated in the AAU Spring Basketball League in San Angelo. They include (top row, from left) Coach Krystal Soliz, Christina Middleton, Brittany Soliz, Alana Parker, (bottom row, from left) Kanah Coalson, Veronica Cerritos, Rachel Wallace, Monica Rodriguez, and Tyler Lott.

Mason Jaycee Annual Roundup Weekend

The 36th Annual Mason Jaycee Roundup Weekend will be held in Mason, Texas on Friday and Saturday, July 7 & 8, 2000.

The rodeo will be both evenings at Fort Mason Park Rodeo Arena. Anyone wishing to enter the rodeo events should contact Lester Meier Rodeo Company at 830-997-1864.

The parade will be held on Saturday July 8th at 10 a.m. If you need a parade entry form,

you can contact Gloria Nebgen at 915-347-5927.

The new Mason County Roundup Queen and Duchesses will be presented both evenings and will be crowned on Saturday evening during the Rodeo. Information may be obtained from Kim Jordan at 915-347-5439.

The Arts and Crafts Fair will be held on the courthouse lawn, Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To obtain booth information, call 915-347-1020 or 915-347-8425. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a weekend of fun!

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Marriage Manual Aimed at Keeping Union Blissful

Couples getting marriage licenses in Coke County will get a handbook that may help their wedded bliss last.

The handbook, called "When You Get Married..." has been printed and distributed to county clerk's offices throughout the state. Coke County has received their books.

Thanks to a Texas House Bill that passed the 1999 legislature, an advisory committee was formed by the Attorney General's office to draft a premarital educational handbook.

The bill made premarital counseling optional and it raised the marriage license fee by \$5.00. The cost is partially applied to publishing the book, and the rest of the money goes into a family research fund administered by the Attorney General's office. The research deals with how to make Texas families stronger. The book hopefully will help get couples off on the right matrimonial foot, save marriages and build stronger families.

The book features a fundamental set of instructions or skills that could benefit every couple. The book talks about personalities, dos and don'ts in conflict and communication, children, money and career plans, lifestyle, religion, in-

Carla Kristinek Graduates From Lubbock Christian University

Carla Kristinek of Whitharral, was one of 178 graduates who participated in commencement exercises for Lubbock Christian University on May 6, 2000.

Carla graduated with a Master of Education in Educational Administration and is the daughter of Dale and Sue Wojtek of Robert Lee.

Lubbock Christian University is a liberal arts institution of higher learning dedicated to providing a quality education in a Christian environment. LCU was among only six Texas schools to be named in the John Templeton Foundation Honor Roll of Character Building Universities. LCU offers 37 bachelor's degree programs and four master's degrees with an average enrollment of 1500 students.

In recent years LCU has enjoyed national recognition. The sports program has produced twelve national team championships, more than a dozen individual champions, and over 300 All-American performances. In addition to athletics, the Students In Free Enterprise team has placed in the top 10 for the last 16 years at the national level and have won four international championships.

laws and laws related to marriage.

The book also refers to therapy and domestic violence hot lines. Hopefully the book will help decrease the divorce rate, which in turn will help with child support, a problem in the state, county clerk Mary Grim said.

The law requires clerks to distribute the book to all marriage license applicants, who also get requisite HIV information and voter registration cards.

"It is a nice book," Ms. Grim said, "If it helps, we certainly don't mind doing this and we hope it does," she said. "It might help people who are already married. Sometimes more people can express themselves in writing. It may open some doors in a relationship that might make it better, more improved."

"This book could be very beneficial to every couple, regardless of their age or how many times they've been married, if they take it to heart," Ms. Grim said.



Creed Coalson (left) and Case Braswell in their patriotic Longhorn go-cart entertained the crowd watching the Fort Chadbourne Day Parade in Bronte June 24. Creed is the son of Wayne and Shaye Coalson of Bronte and Case is the son of Blaine and Kim Braswell.

An Open Letter

Every now and then, there arise issues which are of such magnitude that they demand our attention. This last week, such an issue was a focus of the news, and that is the issue of prayer and its place in the public arena. This last week, the Supreme Court ruled against "student-led" prayer at the beginning of football games. While many see this as another blow against prayer (which it is), we need also to look upon it as another golden opportunity to be witnesses for God.

The forces that wish to drive God and the worship of God into the confines of the sanctuary on Sunday morning and to take any mention of God out of the public arena, be it in the media or on the courthouse lawn at Christmas or on the money we carry in our pocket, believe that another victory has been won with this decision.

They are wrong, and the reason they are wrong is that God does not lose. This particular battle may have been lost (although it really hasn't been), but the war is far from over, and God will ultimately triumph.

While reading this decision and considering its implications, I have been struck by the fact that, for too long, Christians and especially adult Christians, have allowed these forces to cause God's people to retreat on every front. We have also been so slack in our responsibility to **PROCLAIM** the good news of God's love that our children have had to take up the slack that we adults have allowed. It is a sad commentary that this Supreme Court decision had to be in regards to "student-led" prayer. Why are we adults allowing our children to do what we should have been doing all along?

The issue here is not whether prayer can occur at a football game or any other public event. One of the fundamental rights **GUARANTEED** to us by the very constitution which these Supreme Court justices profess to support, is freedom of speech and prayer is a part of that freedom, and by the very law that these justices have pledged themselves to uphold, that freedom cannot be taken from us.

The issue is prayer that is "led." It is not about whether we can or cannot pray: it is about whether or not we can "lead" a prayer. This past year at every home football game, an individual stood up and prayed the Lord's Prayer (and will continue to do so). No one said "Let us pray", so therefore it was not "led." Anyone who wished to, could join in, just as anyone might join in the Pledge of Allegiance or the singing of the National Anthem.

Prayer will go away in public places, such as football games, only if we allow it to. Our fundamental, Constitutionally-guaranteed rights will vanish only if we allow them to. Our religious freedoms and the free **EXPRESSION** thereof will disappear only if we allow them to.

The time has come for everyone who is concerned about their religious freedom to say, "No more!" More importantly, it is time for adults to stand up and be examples for our children and youth who want to know God and who have sought to express their beliefs and now been persecuted for them. It is time for all people, of all faiths and all denominations, who are concerned about their religious freedoms, to lay aside their differences and to be united in their common interests. It is time to stand our ground for the right to praise God in prayer, whenever and wherever. It is time for us to say to the Supreme Court and to those who would put God into a box and nail the lid shut that we, who believe in God, will not go quietly into the night; we will not vanish without a fight.

It is appropriate that this ruling comes so close to the 4th of July, for we are challenged to reaffirm the true meaning of the 4th; that we are guaranteed certain fundamental rights, and among those is the right of free speech, and that includes the right to pray.

As a part of this effort, a new organization has been formed. It is called **PRAYERKEEPERS** and its fundamental purpose is to urge God's people to pray and to pray at every opportunity. This 4th of July, we are urging God's people to pray, both publicly and privately, that we might be allowed to enjoy those fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of speech, for generations to come. We urge God's people everywhere to become **PRAYERKEEPERS**.

May God Bless each one of you,
Rev. Jim Reeves
PRAYERKEEPERS

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



GERMANIA INSURANCE COMPANIES

CARWILE INSURANCE
453-2522

This ad was paid for by PRAYERKEEPERS, PO Box 924, Robert Lee, Texas 76945.



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Contact

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Marshall Millican

453-9002

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653-4535 San Angelo

BRICK HOME
Excellent condition, close to school. Call for prices and for appointment.



FOR RENT

BRONTE HOUSING AUTHORITY

now taking applications for one bedroom apartments. Office hours, MWF, 9 - 11 am. 473-3541.

48b-1tc

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Large 3 bedroom brick home in Bronte. Good neighborhood, fenced backyard. (909) 629-9610 or (915) 473-3201.

48a-tnc

FOR RENT

2 Bdr. trailer w/addition. Very clean. CH/CA. 423 Chadbourne, Robert Lee \$300 mo. w/deposit \$200. Call 453-4359.

39a-1tnc

MISC

BOARDING HORSES & Short Hauling. Call 453-2796 for J.F. If no answer, leave message.

10a-tnc

SUNSHINE CONSTRUCTION

New Construction, Additions, Renovations, and Home Repairs. Contact Don Parks @ 453-2860 or 656-2686 mobile.

34a-tnc

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

37a-tnc

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

34b-tnc

COMPUTERS

Complete systems, repairs, upgrades, internet. Call Ed @ EMCO Computers. 473-3004.

32b-tnc

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

45b-tnc

DONNIE'S REFRIGERATION We service: package units, window units, and RV roof air conditioning. R12 certified for cars, refrigerators and walk-ins. (915) 453-2188 or 473-0254.

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02b-tnc

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24 hr. Emergency Water Damage Service

HELP WANTED

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

HELP WANTED

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

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

29a-EOW

GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE

Robert Lee. Saturday, July 1st. 8 am - 4 pm. Clothes, king size mattress and box springs, stereo, dinette table and chairs, some fishing equipment and more. Across from city dump on old Highway 158, follow signs.

48a-1tp

MULTI-FAMILY

GARAGE SALE

in Blackwell, one block south of 1st Baptist Church on Blanco St. Saturday, July 1st, 8 am - ?.

48b-1tc

BACK YARD SALE
Saturday, July 1st 8 am - 2 pm. 501 N. Franklin, Bronte. See our yellow fliers.

48b-1tc

GARAGE SALE
Saturday, July 1 only, 7:00 am - ?.

48a-1tp

GARAGE SALE
Bobbie and Esca's annual garage sale at Barrett Ranch. June 30th and July 1st, 8 am to 5 pm. Lots and lots of classy junk. See signs on Hwy 1170 and intersection of Hwy 277 and County Road 440.

48a-1tp

CARD OF THANKS

THANK YOU
for all of your expressions of love and sympathy during our great time of loss. Each of you have touched Bill's and our lives in special ways. And for this we thank you.

Keith, Lanette and Glenda
48b-1tp

THANK YOU
so much to 1st Baptist Church, Bro. Morris Johnson, Agape Glass, My Basque and Eubanks family - whose help never ceased, George & "Palla", Oak Creek Power Plant, Friends, Momo/Palla for the tube feeders, Paulie & Sheila, Earlene Alexander and grandkids, Kary Rawlings and family and John's Sunday School class for the prayers, visits, calls, gifts and cards during John's recent surgery.

Angie Basquez
48b-1tc

Social Security News Release

The Social Security Board of Trustees' annual report reveals that the long-range financial picture of Social Security's programs has improved since last year. Specifically, the Board announced that Social Security's trust fund assets will not be depleted until 2037.

The Trustees urged bipartisan legislative action to restore the long-term balance to Social Security.

"While the news is positive, we must not delude ourselves with wishful thinking. The Social Security Trust Funds simply will not fix themselves," said Fredi Franki, Social Security manager in San Angelo, Texas. "Our strong economy gives us a window of opportunity to strengthen Social Security for future generations of workers."

The annual report also indicates that in 2015, trust fund expenditures will begin to exceed tax revenues. Beginning in 2025, trust funds assets will be drawn down to pay benefits until the funds are exhausted in 2037.

In its 60th report to Congress, the Trustees also reported the following:

The Old-Age and Survivors and Disability Insurance Trust Funds paid benefits amounting to \$385.8 billion in 1999, and there were 44.6 million beneficiaries on the rolls at the end of 1999.

In 1999 an estimated 152 million people worked in jobs covered by Social Security.

Administrative expenses were \$3.3 billion in 1999, or about 0.9 percent of benefit payments for the year.

Who Should be Tested for Hepatitis C

The scenario is frightening - a virus causing a disease of the liver lurks in the body, sometimes for decades without symptoms. The treatment is difficult - injections three times a week for 6-12 months, often resulting in strong side effects. The long-term results of infection for some can lead to cirrhosis of the liver, a transplant or even death. This is hepatitis C. Hepatitis C is the most common chronic blood borne infection and the leading cause of liver transplants in the United States. In this environment it is not surprising that there is a lot of misleading information resulting in confusion. That is why the facts are so important.

"Hepatitis C is a virus spread by direct contact with infected blood. We encourage people to get tested for the virus if they have ever used injection drugs not prescribed by a doctor, or if they received dialysis, or had a blood transfusion or solid organ transplant before 1992 when blood was first screened for hepatitis C," said Sharilyn K. Stanley, M.D., Associate Commissioner of Disease Control and Prevention with the Texas Department of Health (TDH).

In addition, persons with hemophilia who received clotting factor concentrates before 1987, those exposed to hepatitis C-infected blood through needle sticks or open sores and children born to mothers infected with hepatitis C are at risk of infection and should be tested. People with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or sexually transmitted diseases should also consider being tested since there is a high co-infection rate. Many of those infected experience no symptoms; although some people have symptoms that appear briefly 6-7 weeks after infection. Symptoms include: nausea, jaundice (yellow skin and eyes), dark urine, light-colored stools, stomachache, loss of appetite, mild fever, flu-like illness and fatigue. There is no vaccine for hepatitis C. Contact your health care provider for further information on hepatitis C testing.

"Some people are needlessly concerned about hepatitis C and misinformation has been circulating," said Stanley. "In the United States the general population is not at risk of contracting hepatitis C through vaccinations, dental work or body piercing when universal safety precautions are practiced. Sterilization of instruments, disposable needles and good handwashing prevent the spread of the virus," said Stanley. Hepatitis C cannot be transmitted through donating blood. Since July 1992, the blood supply has been screened for the virus and any infected blood is destroyed. Furthermore, the virus is not spread through casual contact such as hugging, shaking hands or using telephones used by infected persons. Erroneous reports claim that veterans and emergency workers are more likely to be infected with hepatitis C. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studies indi-

cate these groups have no higher rate of infection with the virus than individuals of the same age and sex in the general population.

In response to House Bill 1652, TDH implemented a series of blinded studies on blood samples to determine the rate of hepatitis C infection in the state's general population and to gather data on infection rates of high risk populations. Results from these studies should be available by the end of 2000 and will be used to develop education efforts to inform the public about prevention and set up effective counseling and testing programs.

Even though the virus is currently difficult to treat, there is hope for people who test positive for hepatitis C. "Those with the hepatitis C virus can make behavioral changes to help prevent further damage to their liver, such as not drinking alcohol. There are also encouraging new treatments being developed," said Stanley.

(For more information, contact Alma Lydia Thompson with the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Surveillance Division at 512-458-7676 or Andrea Morrow in the Office of Communication at 512-458-7400.)

Boaters Urged to use Caution During Holiday Weekend

Three boating-related fatalities were reported in Texas over the Memorial Day weekend, compared to none the same weekend in 1999. The Fourth of July goal for Texas Parks and Wildlife game wardens is that all boaters return home safely.

"Nighttime fireworks shows tend to bring more boaters out on the water at night during the Fourth of July weekend," said James Robertson, TPW law enforcement director. "We'd like everyone to be careful on the water this holiday weekend, and for those out on the water at night we

stress that they avoid alcohol, wear their life jackets, and be sure that their running lights are working properly."

This is the first summer in which a new blood alcohol content law is in effect for Texas boaters. Legislation went into effect Sept. 1, 1999, which lowered the blood alcohol content limit from 0.10 to 0.08 for boat operators as well as automobile drivers.

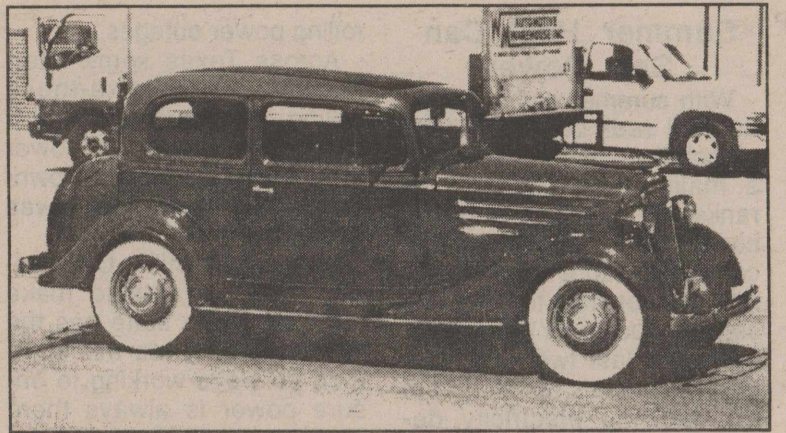
Game wardens made 41 boating while intoxicated arrests between May 22 and June 4.

During the early evening hours of May 27, a boat with seven passengers capsized on Lake Palestine during a thunderstorm. Game wardens and local law enforcement officers retrieved six people - ages 4, 6, 12, 20, 33, and 38 -- from heavy swells. Some of the victims were in the water for more than two hours. All six survivors were wearing life jackets, including the 4-year-old, who fell asleep while wearing a Type II life jacket. The only fatality in the incident was the 27-year-old operator who was not wearing a life jacket.

On May 6, a San Augustine game warden received information about a capsized boat on Sam Rayburn Reservoir. The propeller of the boat became tangled in a trotline resulting in swamping the boat. Fortunately, all three passengers were wearing life jackets.

A man drowned on Lake Ray Hubbard on May 22 when he attempted to swim to his personal watercraft. According to the game warden report, the man removed his life jacket to swim faster. His body was recovered three days later.

Game wardens recovered the body of a 22-year-old California man who drowned May 6 on Lake Lavon. The drowning victim was making a promotional video for a wave-board company when he



This shiny old car was one of many that added to the enjoyment of those watching the Fort Chadbourne Day Parade in Bronte June 24.



The Bronte Junior High Cheerleaders tossed candy to waiting children during the Fort Chadbourne Day Parade in Bronte June 24.

drowned. He was not wearing a life jacket.

On May 28, game wardens patrolling Possum Kingdom Lake near Fort Worth attempted to stop a boat for a water safety inspection and observed that the operator had trouble stopping the boat. Unable to complete any of the field sobriety tests, he was arrested for boating while intoxicated.

A game warden investigated a June 2 boating accident on Lake McQueeney. According to the report, two young men were operating their vessels in a reckless

manner alongside each other to impress their dates when the vessels collided. One boat sank and the other was damaged. No injuries were reported. The two operators were charged with reckless operation. Each paid a fine of \$500, plus court costs.

A May 6 accident on Richland Creek Reservoir was investigated by a Freestone County game warden. The boat operator hit a sandbar and then high winds and waves caused the boat to take on water. Neither the boat operator nor the passenger was injured.

IVEY MOTOR COMPANY, INC.

Hail Sale

1999 Silver Mustang	\$14,995
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Come by & see these & many more great buys!

453-2715

Moving!

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Yes, we have purchased *Wrinkle Hardware* and we are combining our Auto & Truck Repair with the hardware business!

Opening July 1st

We will be a complete service center for your Auto & Truck Repairs, Hardware for your home, lawn and garden needs! We would appreciate your business.

Ron & Joyce Waggoner
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Waggoner's Auto & Truck
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416 Commerce

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Summer Heat Can Sap Power

With summer coming, Texans will seek comfort in their air-conditioned homes. That's a main reason why Texas ranks first nationally in power consumption. A hot summer combined with a strong economy will continue to boost the state's appetite for electricity.

For the last two summers, warning signals resulted from our growing electricity demand. Some southeast Texas customers lost power in July '99 when high temperatures and unforeseen power plant breakdowns caused

Stenholm Seeking Academy Applicants

Congressman Charles W. Stenholm is currently accepting applications from young men and women who are interested in attending one of the United States Service Academies.

Eligible applicants will be at least 17, but not past their 23rd birthday, by July 1, 2001, and must have graduated from high school by that date. Competitive applicants will be in the top 15 percent of their class and have SAT scores above 550 Verbal and 600 Math, or ACT scores of 26 English and 27 Math. Involvement in extra-curricular activities, including school and community organizations and sports as well as full or part-time employment, is also in the applicant's favor.

Individuals who wish to attend the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO, the Military Academy at West Point, NY, the Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD or the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY and who wish to serve as a commissioned officer are strongly encouraged to contact Jayne Schoonmaker in Congressman Stenholm's Washington office. Any individuals wishing additional information should call (202) 225-6605 or write to 1211 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

rolling power outages.

Across Texas some interruptible customers—those willing to absorb occasional outages in return for lower rates—have faced some downtime when their power was shut off.

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) wants to make sure the entire state has the electricity it needs this summer, so we're working to ensure power is always there when you hit the switch.

And more help is on the way. Electric restructuring, with retail competition beginning in 2002, has been designed to enhance rather than compromise reliability. Some 23 power plants are being built to supply more electricity.

More than 4,779 megawatts of electricity with enough power for more than a million Texas homes and 9,100 more megawatts of capacity are being built.

There are ways you can support our state's electric reliability and lower your electric bills: lower your thermostat enough to keep comfortable and stay healthy, but don't overcool your home or office; turn off your air conditioning if you leave home for more than several hours at a time; invest in a programmable thermostat for comfort and economy; switch from hot, inefficient incandescent lights to cool, high-efficiency compact fluorescent bulbs and turn off lights when you leave a room; contact your local electric provider for other money-saving programs.

Fry Now Pay Later

Getting too much sun can cause cancer. Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer. More than 700,000 people get it each year. When found early, most people with skin cancer can be cured. By far, the sun can cause most skin cancers. However, other things can also cause it. Repeated exposure to x-rays. Contact with chemicals like coal tar or arsenic.

How can you prevent skin cancer?

The best way is avoid the sun. Try to stay out of the sun from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. when its rays are strongest.

Cover up. When you are out in the sun, wear wide brimmed hats, long sleeved shirts, and pants. Don't forget to keep your neck covered.

Use sunscreen with a sun protection factor of 15. Sunscreen keeps out the harmful rays of the sun. Apply it at least 15-30 minutes before going in the sun. Put on more after swimming or sweating.

Avoid cloudy days, you can still get burned then.

The sun's rays can reach through three feet of water. So even though you may feel cool in the water, the sun can still burn you.

Watch out for the sun in wintertime. Snow reflects sunlight and that can burn you too.

Don't use sun-lamps, tanning parlors, or tanning pills. They can be just as harmful to your body as the sun.

How can you tell if you have skin cancer?

You can't tell for sure. Only your doctor can.

A mole changes size, shape or color.

There is an unusual growth on your skin.

A sore won't heal.

Your skin changes colors in certain spots.

Look at your skin. Check moles, spots, and birthmarks monthly. Getting too much sun causes other skin problems, such as red, scaly patches. These can also become cancer. See your doctor for this condition too.

Who is likely to get skin cancer?

People who sunburn easily, have fair skin, or have red or blonde hair get skin cancer

most often. It is less common in people with black or deep brown skin. However, anyone who spends a lot of time in the sun get skin cancer. Ninety percent of skin cancers occur on the parts of the body not usually covered with clothing,





the face, hands, forearms, and ears. People trying to get tans also get skin cancer on the shoulders, back, chest, or legs.

Remember, protect yourself from the sun, and you will protect yourself from skin cancer.

DON'T GET BURNED

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SKIN CANCER. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS:

- ①  WEAR A HAT
- ②  WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING
- ③  USE SUNSCREEN SPF 15 OR HIGHER
- ④  LIMIT DIRECT SUN EXPOSURE (BETWEEN 10 AM AND 4 PM)

Have a Safe & Happy

4TH OF JULY

Bell Auto Body Shop

Robert Lee 453-2640

Free Health Screenings

at
Robert Lee Primary Health Care Center

308 East 3rd Street

- 1) Diabetes
- 2) Cholesterol
- 3) Osteoporosis
- 4) Blood Pressure

Friday, June 30, 2000

8 am till 4 pm

Sponsors: Life Scan, Merck, Pfizer, Proctor & Gamble

For more information call
(915) 453-9744

WTU WALL-TO-WALL

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This is a TOTAL LIQUIDATION as our store will be closing soon! DON'T WAIT!*

Starting July 6th

Limited Delivery, Limited Financing

All Sales Final!

Call or Come By Your Local

WTU Store