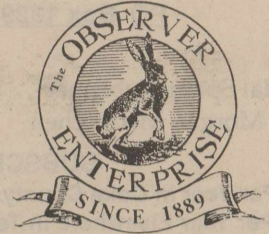


THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

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

Vol. 113, No. 26

Friday, January 26, 2001

2001 Coke County Livestock Show results announced

The 61st edition of the Coke County Junior Livestock Show is now in the record-books. This year's show, as usual, seemed to flow seamlessly thanks to a hard-working show committee, volunteers, and a dedicated group of parents and exhibitors. Of particular note was the weather, which was really nice, considering this may be the worst winter Coke County residents have experienced since 1983.

The buyers' appreciation barbecue, held at noon on Saturday, was excellent as usual, with most of the credit going to the guys who barbecued the brisket, including Wayland Drennan, Gaylon Pitcock, Roy Tinkler, Rick Drennan, Clark Tinkler, and Curtis Walker. Credit also goes to the wives and daughters who stood in the serving line, fixed plates to go,

cleaned up, or carried out any of the other volunteer jobs that are necessary to conduct the annual undertaking.

More than eighty young livestock owners exhibited in excess of 250 projects at this year's show. Of particular note is that Ashlee Millican's run of six consecutive wins in the market lamb show came to an end this year, beaten out for the top spot in the lamb show by none other than her younger brother Lance. Erin Millican took the reserve title in the lamb show. Grand Champion Meat Goat was exhibited by Jake McCabe, with Chelsea Cook showing the reserve champion. In the swine show, Angie Harrell took the top spot, with Kailey Howell's entry named to the reserve title. First year steer exhibitor Riley Coalson showed the grand champion in the steer class, with Clay

Antilley being named to the reserve spot.

Complete results and individual placings at this year's county stock show are included below:

Livestock show results

Light Finewool Market Lamb

1st. Ashlee Millican; 2nd. Ashlee Millican; 3rd. Allison Millican; 4th. Allison Millican; 5th. Kyla Millican; 6th. Taylor Percifull; 7th. Brody Dillard.

Heavy Finewool Market Lamb

1st. Erin Millican; 2nd. Ashlee Millican; 3rd. Jake McCabe; 4th. Whitney Millican; 5th. Lance Millican; 6th. Erin Millican; 7th. Cassidy Wink.

Champion Finewool - Erin Millican

Reserve Champion - Ashlee Millican

Light Finewool Cross Market Lamb

1st. Lance Millican; 2nd. Whitney Millican; 3rd. Kyla Millican; 4th. Blake Millican; 5th. Kyla Millican; 6th. Taylor Percifull; 7th. Brettie Reed; 8th. Miranda Parks.

(cont'd. on page 6)

"Landlord Friendly" rental assistance set for Bronte

Acting upon the written request of Mayor Martin Lee to San Angelo's Mayor Johnny Fender, on Thursday, January 18, 2001, the San Angelo Public Housing Authority Board of directors approved the implementation of a Section 8 "rental assistance" program in the City of Bronte. "Our Board has agreed to extend our boundary from San Angelo to the City of Bronte in order to address two objectives: That is, we will not only assist the needy who qualify, we will also bring dollars into the City of Bronte by helping landlords ensure their units are rented!" reported Director Alex Tafolla who heads San Angelo's program.

On Saturday, January 27, 2001, Director Tafolla and his staff will be taking applications, qualifying applicants and briefing landlords regarding their role in this newly funded local program. Those interested in making application or simply learning more about the program are invited



The Grand Champion Steer at the 2001 show was this outstanding black steer, fed and exhibited by Riley Coalson.

to meet with the San Angelo Public Housing staff who will be available from 9:00 am through 12:00 pm at the Housing Community Room located at 116 Northeast Railroad in Bronte, Texas.

Qualifying households will pay no more than 30% to 40% of their gross income as rent. Because there are income qualification guidelines involved, it is suggested that applicants be prepared with identification and income verifying documents. **"Birth Certificates and Social Security cards for all household members will be needed. Moreover, we will need to see 2-3 weeks of current pay check stubs,"** recommended San Angelo's Public Housing Authority intake specialists.

First UMC to sponsor "Souper Bowl"

The youth of First United Methodist Church of Robert Lee will be conducting a "Souper Bowl" collection for the soup kitchen at Wesley United Methodist Church in San Angelo and for the Coke County Food Closet on Sunday, Jan. 28th. Barrels will be placed outside the church on the sidewalk and residents are urged to bring by non-perishable food items to fill the barrels. All food collected in the barrels will go to the food closet. In addition, the youth will be collecting funds for the soup kitchen during the worship service.

Missionary speaker at Victory Assembly of God

Helen Wagner missionary to Central & South America will speak Wed. night, January 31, at 6:00 pm. The Wagners are personal friends of Pastor Erma from bible school days. The Wagners host construction & ministry teams from the U.S. Helen has started a feeding program for the children.

The Phillips family singers will be at the church on Friday, February 2, 2001, at 7:00 pm. The Phillips family are in full-time musical ministry fulfilling 200 dates per year. The group consist of Christine (Mom) Phillips and sons J. Charles and Grea.

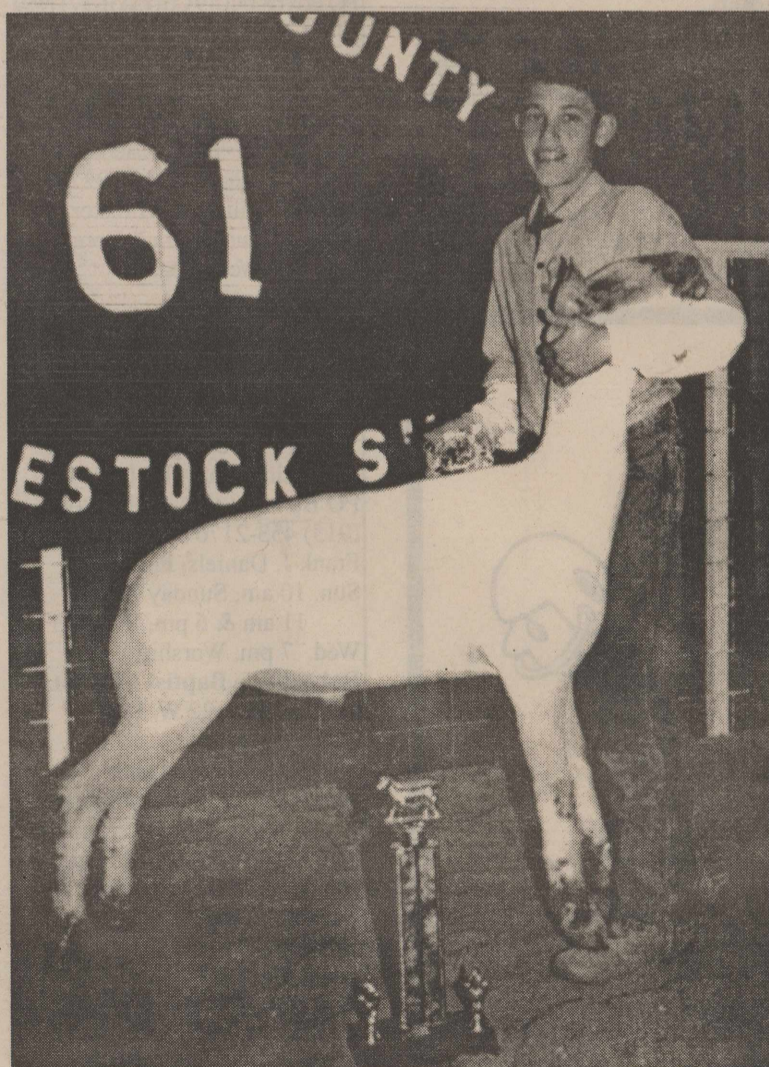
Deadline for ordering tree seedlings

The deadline for ordering windbreak tree seedlings is **January 29, 2001.** Call 915-453-2623, ext. 3 or come by 214 East 7th Street in Robert Lee to place your order. Delivery date is Thursday, February 8, 2001.

Genealogy and Historical Society to meet

The San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society will meet at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2001, at the West Texas Collection at ASU. It is located on the 2nd floor of the student center.

For more information call 655-6494.



Following in his sister's footsteps, Lance Millican showed this Champion Crossbred Lamb to Grand Champion honors in the lamb show. Lance's sister, Ashlee, had previously exhibited the grand champion for the past six years in a row. Lance also fed and exhibited the Champion Crossbred Pig at this year's show.

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE
 Published Weekly Except Christmas
 707 Austin (915) 453-2433

(USPS 467-480) (ISSN 8750-197X)
 Periodical Rate Postage paid at Robert Lee, TX.

**POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to
 Observer/Enterprise
 PO Box 1329, Robert Lee, TX 76945.**

STAFF
 Hal Spain, Publisher Melinda McCutchen, Editor
 Morgan McCutchen Pat Taft

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per Year in Coke County.....	\$20.00
Per Year Elsewhere in Texas.....	\$22.00
Per Year Outside of Texas.....	\$25.00

Death Notices

Eubanks

Ivey O. Eubanks, 78, of Robert Lee died Tuesday, January 23, 2001, in a Robert Lee Care Center.

Service was held at 2:00 pm Thursday at the Robert Lee Baptist Church. Burial followed in the Robert Lee Cemetery. Arrangements were by Shaffer Funeral Home.

He is survived by one son, Jeff Eubanks of Robert Lee; one sister, Earl Katherine Gillis of Comstock; and two grandchildren.

CNA classes

Bronte Health and Rehab Center is pleased to offer education and employment opportunities within our community. CNA classes are being tentatively set for February 6, 2001

Any interested person should come in and fill out an application prior to February 6, 2001. Classes will consist of 75 hours of training, in a 14 day course, to mature individuals who demonstrate an interest in providing care to the elderly and disabled. Applicants must be committed to attending all classes in order to receive certification. After completion of 16 hours of classroom training, students will be given the opportunity to work in the facility performing skills they have mastered in our class. They will be paid for time worked on the floor. Employment opportunities will be offered to our graduates based on our staffing needs.

We wish to encourage anyone who may be interested in attending the classes to contact Sharen Naico, RN, DON, Program Director or Marcy Holland, LVN, SDC, at 900 S. State St. Bronte, TX 76933 no later than February 2, 2001.

Tree seedlings, grass seed and fish offered through local SWCD

Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District continues to assist landowners with grass seed mixes and purchases for range plantings, tree seedlings for windbreaks and fish for pond stocking. Visit our office at 214 East 7th Street or call 915-453-2623, ext. 3 for availability and prices. All proceeds go to natural resource conservation in Coke County.

Food Closet moves

The Coke County Food Closet, a ministry of the Coke County Ministerial Alliance, has moved its location from the First United Methodist Church of Robert Lee, to 21 Houston Street in Robert Lee. This new location is at the corner of 1st Street and Houston, across from the Nueva Iglesia Vida. The new location, housed in the former Hispanic church parsonage, has more room, allowing the food closet to expand its operations.

The hours of operation for the food closet, in its new location, are the same as they were in the former location. The center is open on Thursdays, from 3:00 until 5:30 pm. The food closet is for Coke County residents, including those from Robert Lee and Bronte. Residents of Coke County who cannot drive or do not have a way to come to the food closet are urged to contact Rev. Jim Reeves, pastor of First UMC of Robert Lee, at 453-2417, or the pastors of the other churches in Robert Lee and Bronte, and arrangements can be made for delivery. Arrangements can also be made with Mrs. Charlotte McKnight, food closet coordinator.

The food closet continues to need the support of all of Coke County residents. All non-perishable food items are welcome, but special needs exist for: canned milk, canned meat items, dry beans, spaghetti, macaroni, pasta

items, jello, catsup, mustard, mayonnaise, peanut butter, jelly, juices, soap, soups, canned vegetables, ramen and crackers, as well as other items. Cash donations are also welcome and can be made to the Coke County Food Closet fund at the Robert Lee State Bank.

Future plans for the new food closet center include a clothes closet for men, women and children and other items.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In response to the letter last week concerning the compensation of our County Commissioners in Coke County - outstanding point! I must agree with the author. "The laborer is worthy of his wages." If the commissioners actually labor, then by all means, let's compensate them. There are a variety of ways to accomplish this. The options range from the commissioner's current compensation package to the concept of fulfilling the duties of the job in a voluntary manner without compensation. I might suggest that they be paid a nominal per diem for each official meeting and if they perform "labor" in the actual maintenance of Coke County roads, maybe we should pay them a reasonable hourly wage. If they "labor" over 36 hours per week, then they should be eligible for the county's benefit package. But, these are just a few suggestions out of a field of unlimited possibilities.

The author last week asked "...who does the picking?" I believe (please correct me if I am wrong) that we elect our officials in a democratic method consistent with the Constitution of the United States. Whether serving voluntarily or with compensation, this fact would not change. Therefore, our officials would be chosen to serve by the voters of this county - in whom I have the utmost confidence.

It is my opinion that we must operate this county in the most efficient manner possible. Our poor and our seniors deserve that much from us.

Let me remind each of the taxpayers of Coke County that most of our senior citizens live on fixed incomes. They cannot afford for our taxing entities to waste our tax dollars.

I conclude by pointing out that I am still waiting for a well-reasoned response.

Paul Williams
 439 Morrow
 Bronte, Tx 76933
 915-473-3800

Letter to the Editor

My husband and I are both volunteers with the RLVFD. There are 3 of us that are retired. Bud is dispatcher and I am Secretary. I do not go to the fires.

There are, as of today 25 members on the fire department. The other 18 men are employed, and 4 cadets are in school. Some of the men work out of town, leaving only a few men available during the day.

When a call comes into 911, or the Sheriff's office about smoke seen in ANY area of the county, the men must leave their place of employment to check it out. Costing them lost wages. <Gas is \$1.39 per gallon for regular.> If they check out the smoke report in personal vehicles, it cost that fireman up to \$5.00 for each false alarm. It cost more if he takes a fire truck, the fire trucks are not fuel efficient. The fire department does not charge the public for the fires they fight.

It would be so simple for the ranchers to call the Care Center, 453-2511, the Sheriff's office, 453-2717 or the fire dispatch, 453-4423 and tell someone, they are going to do a controlled burn. Some do, but not many. Last year we responded to 8 smoke reports that turned out to be controlled burns. That does not include the 4 false alarms that were also people burning trash.

The firemen are all volunteers who leave their jobs, families, and other activities to help keep the city and county safe from fires. 12 calls in a year is a lot of the volunteer's time and money, for alarms that could have been avoided.

If a fire truck and men are out checking out a false alarm, and your house should catch fire, think about it, it could take time to get another crew together.

Last year 245 men responded to 43 fire calls for a total of 385 man hours at fires and false alarms. That is a lot of hours away from jobs and family. These men are all volunteers.

Please, please do your part to support the fire department by calling someone if you are going to burn.

Marian Thompson
 RLVFD Secretary

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I agree with S. Blackwood when she wrote that the picture of the murdered big beautiful and endangered Mountain Lion was truly most disgusting. The insensitive person responsible should not be praised by having his photo published. Let us stop the publication of this type of work.

Sincerely,
 Naomi Cornelius James
 San Angelo, Texas

Arts & Crafts festival

The ninth annual All American Arts and Crafts Festival will be held January 27-28 in the Exhibits Building at the San Angelo Coliseum Complex. Artists and crafters from throughout the Southwest will fill the building with original art, limited edition prints and handcrafted items. Hours for the festival are Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday from noon to 5 pm. There is no admission charge.

Churches of Robert Lee

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Emmanuel Pentecostal
 PO Box 683 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy
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Rev. Ray Aldridge, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm
Northside Church of Christ
 PO Box 388 • 9th & Chadbourne
 (915) 453-2619 or 453-2270
 Tommy Williams, Minister
 Services: Sun. 10 am & 6 pm;
 Wed. 7 pm

Pecan Baptist
 PO Box 542 • 12 W. Sterling City Hwy
 (915) 453-4645

Rev. Dale Patterson, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship

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

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

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

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

Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
 601 W. 10th


(915) 365-2687
 Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor
 Sat. 6 pm

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

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

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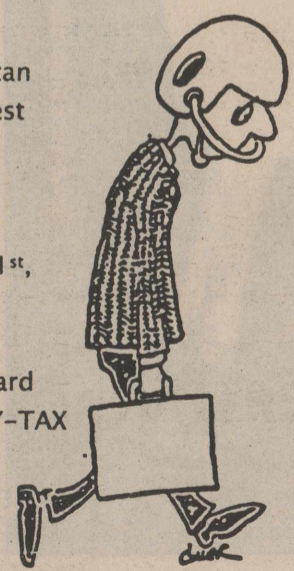
January is the last month payment can
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 Will be accepted without penalty.

Payment may be made with credit card
 Over the phone by calling 1-888-2PAY-TAX
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Or, pay online at
www.officialpayments.com
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For assistance or additional information,
 Please call the Coke County Tax Office at
 915-453-2614



Letter to the Editor
Killing the mountain lion
 Dear Editor,

Shame on Jacob Wilkinson and his uncle, R.O. Wheeler for ending the life of such a wonderful natural resource. Naturally, I have to wonder what kind of thrill Mr. Wilkinson derived from luring this beautiful creature so close and then destroying him?

It is unfortunate that there are ignorant and misguided people that believe these animals don't belong here. I hope this young man and his family are very proud of such an accomplishment. I, for one, am disturbed by the picture and wonder why you printed it? This type of low-class journalism is what gives true meaning to the word "Redneck".

Joni James Satterfield
 San Angelo

Editor's Response

It takes a pretty special situation for me to respond to an attack in the newspaper, but the words "low class journalism" and "redneck", whether deserved or not, will probably always push some of my buttons.

I will not debate with you whether the killing of the "kitty" is "unfortunate", "misguided", and "ignorant", as you state in your letter. However, it always makes me wonder how you activists feel about killing a critter that's not so "beautiful", like a skunk, a javelina, a rattlesnake, or any other animal that might not be quite as high on your "beautiful" scale.

Speaking for myself only, I probably wouldn't have killed the "kitty". And, I used to deer hunt, but haven't killed a deer in the past ten years. But before you start thinking I'm in your camp, I'd better tell you that I slaughter the little quail birds on a regular basis (when I can find a covey with my dogs, and also when I can't hit 'em); so I don't share your philosophy in any shape, form, or manner.

What you activists will never realize is that if it were not for the hunters, we wouldn't have the abundance of wildlife that you profess (in word only) to protect. Hunter's fees for licenses and related hunting monies have financed the vast majority of the wildlife conservation that has gone on in this country. Hunters are the one and only reason that when you drive from San Angelo to Robert Lee or Bronte, especially in the early morning hours or late evening, you will see several deer during your trip. Before hunters and conservation funding, we never had the numbers of wildlife that we

have the pleasure of experiencing now. Promise me that the next time you see geese flying south you'll try to understand that we have more waterfowl now than at any other time in the history of this nation, and you can thank hunters and hunting groups for being the primary force behind the conservation of wetlands for ducks and geese and waterfowl habitat.

We can argue about the ethics of hunting all day and never agree, but there is one thing you cannot disagree with. The county this newspaper serves has had a declining income since the oil boom played out in the mid 80's, followed by a decline in livestock prices, which has been further aggravated by a drought which rivals what we experienced during the 50's. We lease our lands for hunting in this county because we need it to help supplement some of this lost income. As the only newspaper which serves Coke County, I feel an obligation to help promote our abundant wildlife and fishing resources. That is why we publish one of the best hunting and fishing guides in the state of Texas. And, if you'll look closely at next year's issue (in October), you'll once again have the opportunity to view this same picture and other articles and pictures "low class journalism" of the "ignorant and misguided rednecks" associated with managing the wildlife resources in Coke County.

Hal Spain
 Owner/Publisher

Spiritual poems sought

A \$1000.00 grand prize is being offered in a special religious poetry contest sponsored by New Jersey Rainbow Poets, free to everyone. There are 28 prizes in all totaling over \$3,000.00.

To enter, send one poem only of 21 lines or less: Free Poetry Contest, PMB70, 103 N. Wood Ave., Linden, NJ 07036. Or enter on-line at www.freecontest.com.

The deadline for entering is February 17, 2001. Poems may be written on any subject, using any style, as long as there is a spiritual inference. A typical poem might be a love poem, or nature poem, one that inspires. All entrants will receive a winner's list.

Pageant Association to meet

The Coke County Pageant Association will meet on Thursday, February 1st, at 7 pm at Robert Lee City Hall. All interested area residents are encouraged to attend.

Check out
 ✓ Coke Co.
 Library

National Book Month

January is National Book Month. The Coke County Library invites those who have not visited the library to come in to browse, get a library card, renew old acquaintances with some favorite authors and find some new ones to enjoy, or use the Internet to pursue an interest.

The library collection contains almost all of the popular reading authors, a good selection of Texas literature, and magazines that patrons are welcomed to take home and read and return - or otherwise recycle.

Library cards are free for the asking. It is not necessary to present a library card to check out a book. Once a patron's name is on file, it has a lifetime guarantee. Library fines are not charged, but payable when the urge strikes. Many patrons pay a fine once or twice a year as a donation. Residents in Bronte can return books to the Main Street Market. Faithful Bronte patrons often make a stop by Main Street and pick up the books to be returned.

A new selection of large print books are now in the library thanks to a generous donation by Jan and Linda Havins in memory of their grandmother, Mrs. Martha V. Havins. The funds were collected by the girls' friends and co-workers as a gesture of sympathy. Some of the titles are: Standoff, Brown; Last Precinct, Wornwell; Snowfire, Whitney; Wedding and House on Hope Street, Steel; and Rescue, Spark.

Library hours are Tuesdays, 8-12; Wednesdays, 8-4; Thursdays, 1-5; Fridays, 8-12. Story Hour is Tuesday at 10:00. Head Start story hour is Wednesday at 9:00.



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Robert Lee School News

Lady Steers basketball

In the biggest matchup of District 6-A to date, the Robert Lee Lady Steers defeated Roby 59-50. It put the Lady Steers atop the 6-A standings at 3-0 and dropped Roby to 2-1 and 20-1 for the season. The Lady Steers trailed the visiting Lady Lions 27-34 at the half but quickly made up the difference early in the 3rd quarter. The game remained in question until the final 2 minutes, when the Lady

Steers connected on several free throws and late baskets. Shanna Wojtek led the scoring with 15 points, connecting on 4 three pointers. Deshira Dickey finished with 12, Jodee Helwig had 11, and Whitney Millican had 6. Dixie Simpson and Jennifer Alexander came off the bench and had a big 10 points, with Simpson connecting for 6 and Alexander for 4. The Lady Steers record now stands at 19-2.

The Lady Steers took their 20th victory of the year from Bronte 51-40 last Thursday night. Deshira Dickey had 16 points & 9 rebounds. Others scoring were: Helwig 9; Wojtek 7; Matthews 6; Simpson 6; Millican 4; Alexander 3.

RLJV basketball

On the 15th, the 9th grade girls defeated Forsan by a score of 29-16. Monica Rodriguez led the scoring with 11, followed by Tyler Lott 10; Shannon Honse 6; and Jessica Fluhmann 2.

Tuesday night, Robert Lee continued with another win against Bronte by a score of 11-6. Robert Lee scoring is as follows: Jessica Fluhman 4; Monica Rodriguez 2; Debra Barron 1; Rachel Wallace 4.

On the 16th, Robert Lee JV defeated Roby JV by a score of 50-11. Misti Brothers led the scoring with 17; followed by Kindra Matthews 10; Nicole Sanchez 6; Christina Middleton 5; Amie Kendall, Ashlee Millican & Krystal Soliz each had 4.

Economic benefits from smaller classes

TEPSA Newsletter
Students in smaller classes perform better and enjoy higher future earnings, according to a report released by the Washington-based Economic Policy Institute.

In *Understanding the Magnitude and Effect of Class Size on Student Achievement*, Princeton University Professor Alan Krueger conducted a cost benefit analysis. Based on a landmark Tennessee study, Krueger concluded the long-term economic benefits of reducing class sizes outweigh the costs.

According to Krueger, a 10 percent increase in expenditures per student, enough to pay for reducing class of 22 students to 15, would lead to a one-percent increase in a student's lifetime earnings.

Note: In its 2001 Legislative Position, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors (TEPSA) promotes a maximum class size requirement ratio of one teacher to 22 students.

To view the complete report, visit www.tepsa.org.

Students at center of small schools

TEPSA Newsletter
Providing a decent, adequate education to all children, not leaving anyone behind is the goal of most small schools. In his book *A Simple Justice: The challenge of Small Schools*, William Ayers argues that the defining difference of small schools is the ability to move from the impersonal to the personal.

According to the collection of essays throughout the book, students are at the center of the educational system in small schools, and they have the opportunity to be known well by a caring adult.

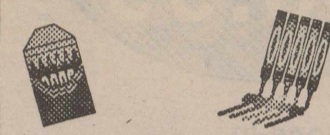
According to Ayers, large schools were deliberate and based upon a business metaphor and factory model. He concludes large schools have essentially failed with higher dropout rates, suicides and more instances of violence which small schools tend to retain students longer and have higher rates of success, especially in high-poverty neighborhoods.

One essay by Michael Klonsky, entitled "Remembering



Champion Mediumwool Lamb for 2001 was fed and exhibited by Allison Millican.

SCHOOL MENU



Breakfast

Monday, Jan. 29

Orange juice, donut, cereal, milk

Tuesday, Jan. 30

Orange juice, muffin, cereal, milk

Wednesday, Jan. 31

Orange juice, pancake & sausage on stick, cereal, milk

Thursday, Feb. 1

Orange juice, cinnamon roll, cereal, milk

Friday, Feb. 2

Orange juice, biscuit, sausage, cereal, milk

Lunch

Monday, Jan. 29

Chili con carne, rice, potato patty, peaches, milk

Tuesday, Jan. 30

Rib-b-que, potato salad, red beans, cornbread, apple crisp, milk

Wednesday, Jan. 31

Grilled cheese sandwich, veg. soup, crackers, pickles, pineapple, milk

Thursday, Feb. 1

Tacos, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, ranch beans, banana pudding, milk

Friday, Feb. 2

Barbecue burger, pickles, tator tots, fruit cocktail, ice cream, milk

Port Huron" offers the following as necessary for successful schools:

*Teachers work together collaboratively in a professional community.

*Students are known by teachers, and teachers are known by students.

*A group of teachers remains with a cohort of students for several years.

*Schools have a clear focus or sense of purpose.

*Several schools can exist within one building. Schools are not seen as brick and mor-

tar: rather they are considered to be learning communities.

To get information on the price of the book, call 1-800-575-6566.

Note: In its 2001 Legislative Position, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA) promotes a maximum class size requirement ratio of one teacher to 22 students. Substantial independent research shows that a lower number of students in an elementary classroom has a profound impact on student learning.

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EXHIBITS BUILDING

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UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MEL PRATHER



The Bronte Elementary "A" Honor Roll Luncheon was recently held. Honorees for the 3rd Six Weeks included Jessi England, Ty Mackey, Emily Austin, Estephanie Flores, Casey Harris, Rebekah Beauchamp, Eric Hendrickson, Jonathan Marrs, Philip Rawlings, and Logan Rawls. Sherri Marrs, a BHS teacher, was the guest speaker. Frances Williams, Pat Lee, Heather Lee, Terry Marrs and Alan Richey were among the others attending.

Bronte High School
All "A" Honor Roll
7th grade

Lindsey Butler, Lillian McMullan, Rebecca Rawlings, Bailey Saunders

8th grade
Ashleigh Kelly, Jasmine Kresta, Ashley McCutchen

9th grade
Logan Acker, Ariel Marrs, Britney McCutchen, Casey McKee, Kailey Howell

10th grade
Khanni Beauchamp, Jenna Herold, Heather Richey, Jonathan Tomes

11th grade
Britni Adams, Mindy Boyd, Katy Frazee, Christine Galvan, Morgan McCutchen, Daisy Porter, Natasha Reed, Lacy Schoenfield, Amy Morgan

12th grade
Kala Arrott, Ryan McCorkle, Rosa Rodriguez, Clayton Acker, Brooke McCutchen, Tessie McMullan, Chrissie McCoulskey, Crystal Moore,

Elizabeth Morgan, Jade Richards, Josh Schoenfield, Cara Sefcik

"A-B" Honor Roll
7th grade

Blake Braswell, Megan Gibbs, Lydia Lara, Jaylon Saunders, Cheyenne Webb, Zack White

8th grade
Blaine Dyess, Jesse Herold, Romana Hoover, Garrett Jackson, Calli Johnson, Ryan Martinez, James McCollough, Desiree Mirelez, Cody Moore, Nicole Sanders, Salena Soto, Stephen Tomes

9th grade
Ashley Denton, Brittany Eldred, Kendra Graves, B.J. Hall, Joseph Israel, C.J. Maccon, Natalee Reed, Ashley Torres, Diane Womack, Kanah Coalson

10th grade
James Graves, Kayla Hilliard, Kyli McGinnis, Joe'l Sefcik, Lindsay Springer, Joel Webb

11th grade
Cassandra Casares, Chrissie Counts, Steve Eldred, Codi Monsey, Michelle Owens, Brandon Poehls, Stormy White

12th grade
Brandon Gibbs, Eric Johnson, Jesse McClure, Cassandra Parks, Kim Smith, Zeb Speary, Shannon Van Vleck, Henry White

Bronte JV boys
basketball

On the 18th, the Bronte JV team took on Robert Lee and won by a score of 37-19. Bronte scoring is as follows: Joel Webb 22; Joseph Isreal 2; Garrett Fiveash 3; Scott Snyder 7; Casey McKee 3.

Bronte Jr. High boys
basketball

On Monday, the Jr. High "A" team took on Water Valley and came away with a victory by a score of 38-18. Bronte scoring is as follows: Justin Frazee 2; Jaylon Saunders 2; Cory Cooper 2; Blaine Dyess 2; B.J. Bilbrey 3; Cody Moore 14; Jesse Herold 5; Kinlee Hoyt 6; Sherman Griffin 2.

Bronte Jr. High "B" team had a close game against Sterling City but lost by a score of 25-30. Bronte scoring is as follows: Zach White 4; Sherman Griffin 14; B.J. Bilbrey 2; Riley Coalson 5.

The Jr. High "A" team lost their game against Sterling City by a score of 24-42. Bronte scoring is as follows: Justin Frazee 9; Garrett Jackson 2; Cory Cooper 2; Blaine Dyess 2.

Bronte JV girls
basketball

On the 16th, Bronte played Roscoe and won by a score of 26-22. Bronte stats are as follows: Heather Richey 3 points, 6 rebounds, 2 steals; Lindsay Springer 7 points, 2 rebounds; Kayla Hilliard 5 rebounds, 1 steal; Britney McCutchen 6 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist; Kanah Coalson 6 points, 4 rebounds; Brittany Eldred 1 rebound; Ashley Denton 3 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal.

The Bronte JV girls "B" team played Robert Lee on the 17th and lost by a score of 9-17. Bronte stats are as follows: Lindsey Williams 2 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist; Jenna Herold 1 point, 4 rebound, 1 steal; Natalee Reed 2 points, 6 rebounds, 1 steals; Ashley Torres 3 rebounds; Kailey Howell 4 points, 3 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 assist; Logan Acker 2 rebounds, 2 steals.

The JV "A" team didn't make it an easy win for Robert Lee as they went into overtime. Heather Richey had an outstanding game. She made two free throws late in the 4th quarter to send the game into overtime. The girls fought hard and played a great game. The final score was Robert Lee 36 - Bronte 34. Bronte stats are as follows: Heather 18 points, 18 rebounds, 1 steal, 2 assists; Kayla Hilliard 2

points, 6 rebounds; Britney McCutchen 6 points, 1 steal, 4 assists; Kanah Coalson 4 points, 1 rebound, 1 steal; Brittany Eldred 2 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist; Ashley Denton 2 points, 6 rebounds, 2 steals.

Bronte Longhorn
basketball

Bronte Longhorns took on Roscoe and suffered a loss to Roscoe by a score of 43-53. Bronte stats are as follows: Brandon Gibbs 9 points, 5 rebounds; Henry White 7 rebounds; Ryan McCorkle 14 points, 5 rebounds; Tim Green 2 points; Steve Eldred 11 points, 8 rebounds, 3 steals; Clayton Acker 2 points; Charlie Bettis 5 points.

Bronte Longhorns took on the Robert Lee Steers and ran away with the game by a score of 80-38. Bronte stats are as follows: Brandon Gibbs 11 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists; Henry White 14 points; Zeb Speary 11 points, 4 assists, 3 steals; Ryan McCorkle 7 points, 7 assists; Josh Schoenfield 8 points; Tim Green 2 points; Steve Eldred 9 points; Clayton Acker 6 points; Jeremy Silva 2 points; Charlie Bettis 8 points; Dalton Graves 2 points.

Bronte youth
fund-raiser

The youth of First United Methodist Church of Bronte are taking orders for submarine sandwiches. The sandwiches may be ordered by calling 473-3281. The orders will be delivered Super Bowl Sunday, January 28, between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm.

Money raised will be used for youth programs, summer camp and other youth activities.

As soon as you trust yourself, you will know how to live.

Goethe



Heather Beauchamp, daughter of Sheila Beauchamp of Bronte, has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Her overall GPA for the Fall 2000 semester was 4.0 on a 4.0 scale. She is pursuing a communications/psychology double major with a marketing minor and will graduate in August 2001 with honors. Heather has three sisters: Sonya, a student at University of North Texas; and Khanni and Rebekah, Bronte ISD students.

Bronte elementary
encourages reading

Education experts confirm what you already know: Reading for fun has a profound impact on our children. To encourage reading, the Bronte Elementary School is having a Scholastic Book Fair the week of January 29 - February 2 at the Bronte Elementary Library.

Every student gets to visit the fair during the week, and a special Family Event Night will be held on Thursday, February 1, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm so that family members can stop by as well. This night is a perfect opportunity for parents, grandparents, and friends to get excited about books and reading.



SCHOOL MENU

Breakfast
Monday, Jan. 29
Cereal, peaches, biscuit, milk
Tuesday, Jan. 30
Breakfast burrito, apple juice, cinnamon toast, milk
Wednesday, Jan. 31
Scrambled eggs, orange juice, biscuit, milk
Thursday, Feb. 1
Breakfast pizza, sliced pears, teddy grams, milk
Friday, Feb. 2
Sausage, grape juice, pancakes, milk

Lunch
Monday, Jan. 29
Fish sticks, blackeyed peas, stir fried rice, mixed fruit, rolls, milk, chocolate pudding
Tuesday, Jan. 30
Chicken strips with gravy, creamed potatoes, green beans, rolls, milk, apple crisp
Wednesday, Jan. 31
Taco salad with cheese, lettuce & tomato, pinto beans, corn chips, milk, jello
Thursday, Feb. 1
Sliced bar-b-que sausage, sweet corn, macaroni & cheese, rolls, milk, apricot cobbler
Friday, Feb. 2
Hot dogs, chili & cheese, tator tots, baked beans, bun, milk, ice cream cups

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Angie Harrell displays her Champion Hampshire Pig, which also earned the top honor of Grand Champion Pig of the 2001 County Stock Show.



Kalley Howell is all smiles as she exhibited the Champion Duroc Pig, which was later named Reserve Grand Champion Pig at this year's show. Kalley also picked up the Showmanship buckle in the swine division.

...Stock Show
(cont'd. from page 1)

Heavyweight Finewool Cross Market Lamb
1st. Erin Millican; 2nd. Ashlee Millican; 3rd. Lance Millican; 4th. Ashlee Millican; 5th. Briana Brisbin; 6th. Briana Brisbin; 7th. Cody McCabe; 8th. Brian Abalos.

Champion - Lance Millican

Reserve Champion - Whitney Millican

Southdown Market Lamb

1st. Taylor Percifull; 2nd. Briana Brisbin; 3rd. Brettne Reed; 4th. Briana Brisbin; 5th. Brettne Reed.

Medium Wool Market Lamb

1st. Allison Millican; 2nd. Brian Abalos; 3rd. Brian Abalos; 4th. Taylor Percifull.

Lightweight Goat

1st. Emilee Yanez; 2nd. Kevin Honse; 3rd. Chelsea Cook; 4th. Shannon Honse; 5th. Sarah Phillely; 6th. Sam Rawlings; 7th. Cody Denton; 8th. Becca Skinner; 9th. Emilee Yanez; 10th. Stacey Denton; 11. Kasie Skinner; 12th. Brettne Reed; 13th. Joel Sefcik; 14th. Ali Tounget; 15th. Garrett Blair; 16th. Ruben Torres; 17th. Monica Rodriguez; 18th. Anmie Kendall; 19th. Evan Braswell; 20th. Joel Sefcik; 21st. Joel Sefcik; 22nd. Jesse Braswell; 23rd. Brian Abalos; 24th. Johanna Pederson.

Mediumweight Goat

1st. Lance Millican; 2nd. Chelsea Cook; 3rd. Lance Millican; 4th. Mason Jackson; Chelsea Cook; 6th. Rebecca Rawlings; 7th. Amber Brosh; 8th. Michele Sanchez; 9th. Nicole Sanchez; 10th. Sarah Phillely; 11th. Joel Webb; 12th. Nicole Sanchez; 13th. Mason Ross; 14th. Cody Brosh; 15th. Kasie Skinner; 16th. Becca Skinner; 17th. Mason Ross; 18th. Cheyenne Webb; 19th. Garrett Jackson; 20th. Mason Ross; 21st.

(cont'd. next page)



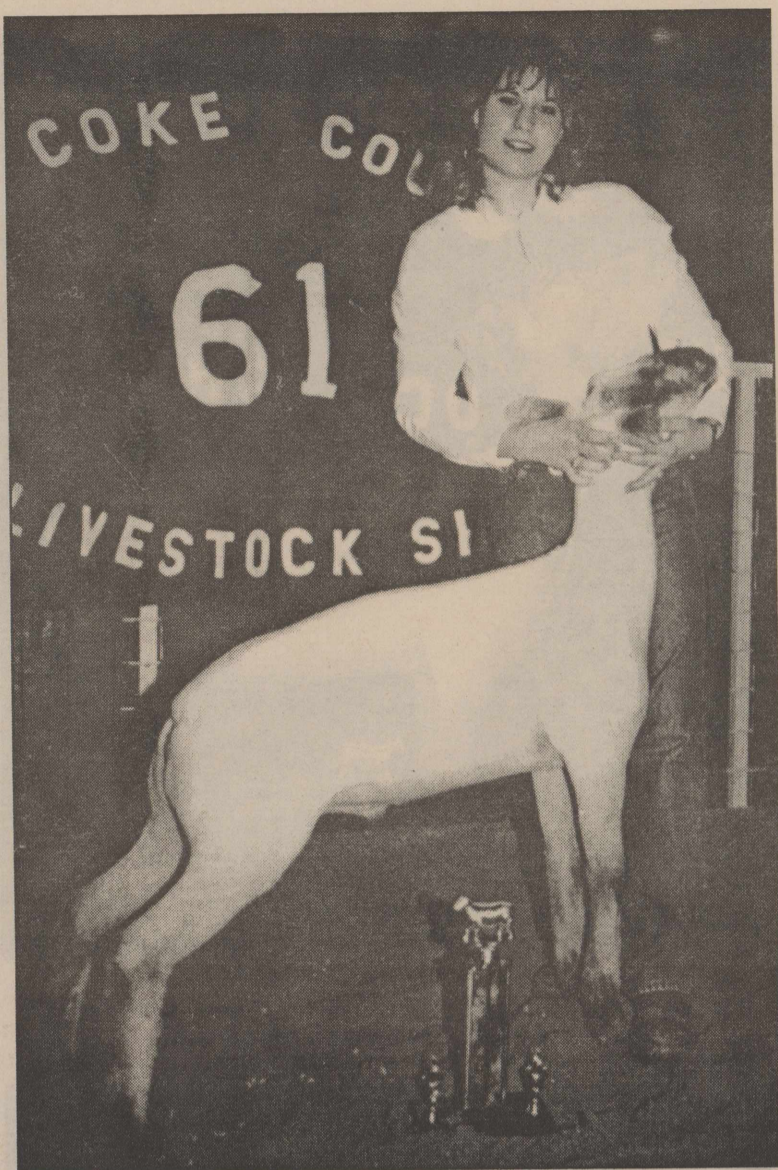
This top placing heavyweight meat goat entry, exhibited by Jake McCabe, was named the Grand Champion Meat Goat at this year's county stock show.



Katie Bessent's entry in the Hampshire Pig class was named Reserve Champion at this year's show.

Your patronage of the following stock show boosters is greatly appreciated.

SHALON'S FLORAL BOUTIQUE Randy & Shalon Gibbs	BILLY JACK & KRISTY ROE	ED & JANE CUMBIE
TOWN & COUNTRY FOOD STORE #114 Bronte	CITY OF BRONTE	WAGGONNER'S HARDWARE • AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR
BRONTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	PCR FEED YARD Waldon & Judy	COKE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE Phelan Wrinkle
THE RAWLINGS David, Kary, Rebecca, Philip & Samuel	PAUL & JOAN BURNS	DIANE'S CHUCKWAGON
KEY FEED STORE	THE BEST CONNECTION The Drennan Family	RICK & KAY STYLES



Exhibiting the Reserve Champion Finewool Cross Lamb for the 2001 County Stock Show was Whitney Millican.



Reserve Champion Finewool Lamb was exhibited by Ashlee Millican, who also won the Frank Percifull Overall Showmanship award and the Ralph Walker Top Hand award.



Julie Riley assists Clay Antilley in displaying his buckles at this year's show. In addition to exhibiting the Reserve Grand Champion Steer, Clay also picked up a win in Steer Showmanship.

...Stock Show (cont'd. from page 6)

Becca Skinner; 22nd. Garrett Blair; 23rd. Michael Rodriguez.

Light Heavyweight Goat
1st. Chelsea Cook; 2nd. Ashlee Millican; 3rd. Nicole Sanchez; 4th. James Graves; 5th. Rebecca Rawlings; 6th. Garrett Jackson; 7th. Stacey Denton; 8th. Philip Rawlings; 9th. Cody Denton; 10th. Ali Toungat; 11th. Andra Braswell; 12th. April Cowart; 13th. Kayla Medrano; 14th. Joel Webb; 15th. Cole Flanagan; 16th. Sam Rawlings; 17th. Kasie Skinner; 18th. Ali Toungat; 19th. Ruben Torres; 20th. Monica Rodriguez; 21st. Cody Brosh; 22nd. Michele Sanchez; 23rd. James Graves; 24th. Amie Kendall.

Heavyweight Goat

1st. Jake McCabe; 2nd. Jake McCabe; 3rd. Allison Millican; 4th. Garret Jackson; 5th. Erin Millican; 6th. Cody McCabe; 7th. Cody McCabe; 8th. Allison Millican; 9th. Jaylon Saunders; 10th. Stacey Denton; 11th. Philip Rawlings; 12th. Cody Brosh; 13th. Mason Jackson; 14th. Garrett Jackson; 15th. Jaylon Saunders; 16th. Briana Brisbin; 17th. Sarah Philley; 18th. Nicole Sanchez; 19th. Cody Denton; 20th. Briana Brisbin; 21st. Mason Jackson; 22nd. Joel Webb; 23rd. Case Braswell; 24th. Michele Sanchez; 25th. Reese Braswell; 26th. Eddie May; 27th. Sarah Philley.

Lightweight Duroc

1st. Cara Eaton; 2nd. Katie Bessent; 3rd. Morgan Hill; 4th. Cassidy Wink; 5th. Angie Harrell; 6th. Kaden Duncan; 7th. Cassidy Wink; 8th. Angie Harrell; 9th. Whitney Millican; 10th. Taylor Percifull; 11th. April Cowart; 12th. Jordan Brown.

Heavyweight Duroc

1st. Kailey Howell; 2nd. Chloe Grigg; 3rd. Morgan Hill; 4th. Lance Millican; 5th. Briana Brisbin; 6th. Ashlee Millican; 7th. Angie Harrell; 8th.

(cont'd. next page)



Reserve Champion Crossbred Pig was fed and exhibited by Morgan Hill.

Your patronage of the following stock show boosters is greatly appreciated.

ROGER & DELLA ALEXANDER	TEXAS BEST DE-FLOODING & CARPET CLEANING Bob & Patti Frazee	FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BRONTE Member FDIC
DON PABLO'S BBQ & COUNTRY COOKIN' Bronte, Texas	ARROTT RANCHES Nick, LeDrew & Bobbie, Mike & Andra	COKE COUNTY PHARMACY 453-2400
WEST COKE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	TOM & ELAINE LEE	HOMETOWN HARDWARE FEED & SUPPLY Bronte
COKE COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE Stover & Jerita, Sheryl	MASSEY, BALENTINE, EDWARDS & PSENCIK, P.C.	COKE-STERLING FARM BUREAU
BELL AUTO BODY 453-2640	MARY GRIM County/District Clerk	COKE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER



Reserve Grand Champion Meat Goat at this year's county stock show was this entry shown by Chelsea Cook.



The Champion Black OPB Pig at this year's show was this entry, exhibited by Blake Millican.

...Stock Show
(cont'd. from page 7)

Angie Harrell; 9th. Kelsy Duncan; 10th. Johnathan Marrs; 11th. Cara Eaton; 12th. Kayla Medrano.

Champion - Kalley Howell

Reserve Champion - Chloe Grigg

Lightweight Hampshire
1st. Julie Riley; 2nd. Ashlee Millican; 3rd. Kailey Howell; 4th. Johnathan Marrs; 5th. Katie Bessent; 6th. Ariel Coalson; 7th. Cara Eaton; 8th. Kelsy Duncan; 9th. Kaden Duncan; 10th. April Cowart.

Heavyweight Hampshire
1st. Angie Harrell; 2nd. Katie Bessent; 3rd. Briana Brisbin; 4th. Lance Millican; 5th. Ashlee Millican; 6th. Kailey Howell; 7th. Anthony Gibbs; 8th. Cara Eaton; 9th. Kasie Skinner; 10th. Anthony Gibbs.

Champion - Angie Harrell

Reserve Champion - Katle Bessent

White Other Pure Breeds

1st. Lance Millican; 2nd. Chloe Grigg; 3rd. Morgan Hill; 4th. Ashlee Millican; 5th. Chloe Grigg; 6th. Cassidy Wink; 7th. Whitney Millican; 8th. Kelsy Duncan.

Champion - Lance Millican

Reserve Champion - Chloe Grigg

Black Other Pure Breeds

1st. Blake Millican; 2nd. Kayla Medrano; 3rd. Briana Brisbin; 4th. Kyla Millican; 5th. Kayla Medrano.

Champion - Blake Millican

Reserve Champion - Kayla Medrano

Lightweight Cross

1st. Becca Skinner; 2nd. Clay Antilley; 3rd. Kelsy Duncan; 4th. Sherman Griffin; 5th. Chelsea Cook; 6th. Kaden Duncan; 7th. Josh Conner; 8th. Cara Eaton; 9th. Julie Riley; 10th. April Cowart; 11th. Kyla Millican.

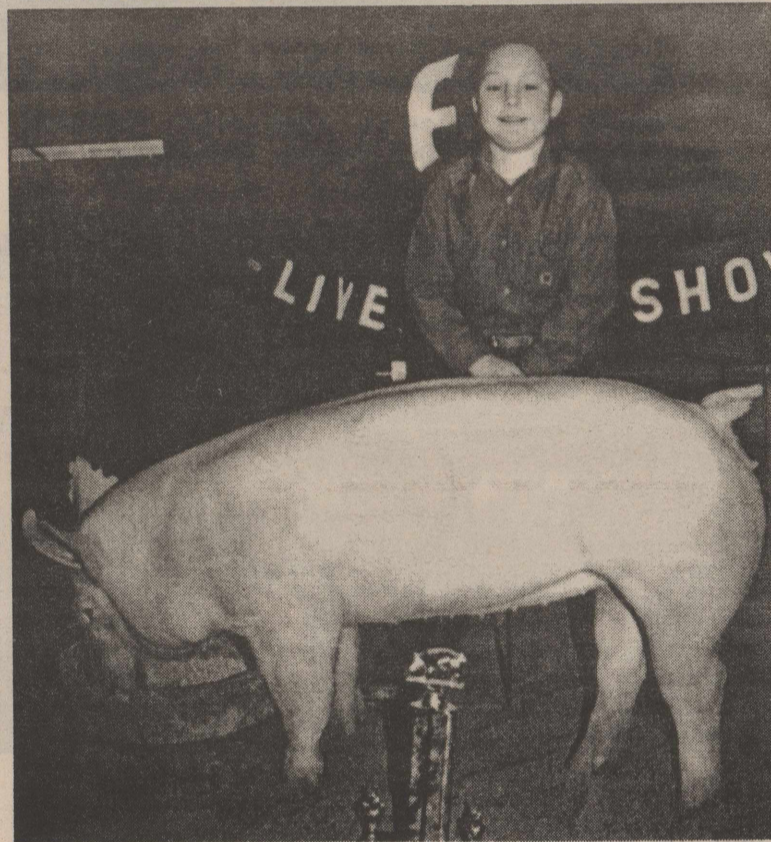
Heavyweight Cross

1st. Lance Millican; 2nd.

(cont'd. next page)



Although this lamb looks like quite a handful for the youthful exhibitor, Briana Brisbin's Southdown entry was named Reserve Champion of the Southdown show.



Chloe Grigg was another multiple winner at this year's show, exhibiting the Reserve Champion White OPB Pig and the Reserve Champion Duroc Pig.

Your patronage of the following stock show boosters is greatly appreciated.

BOBBY & JEFFIE ROBERTS	JIMMY'S AUTOMOTIVE & TIRE SHOP	SUPER "H" IGA
WINK INSURANCE AGENCY	MERLE NORMAN COSMETICS	CHARLES & DORRIS SONNENBERG
S & S PRINTING Bruce & Fran Sonnenberg	WILBERN & CHARLOTTE MILLICAN	BRONTE PHARMACY Randy, Julie & Employees
BEN BESSENT CHEVROLET	CRACKER BARREL RESTAURANT Chris & Katy	C & H AUTO PARTS
CARWILE INSURANCE Bill & Pat Carwile	CONCHO REALTY	THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE



Taylor Percifull showed the Champion Southdown Lamb at this year's county stock show.



Joe Harmon (center), purchased these two goats in the premium auction for Finis and LaRue Harmon. Cody McCabe's entry is shown on the right, and Samuel Rawlings is pictured on the left.

...Stock Show (cont'd. from page 8)

Morgan Hill; 3rd. Kailey Howell; 4th. Katie Bessent; 5th. Cassidy Wink; 6th. Kailey Howell; 7th. Angie Harrell; 8th. Taylor Percifull; 9th. Ariel Coalson; 10th. Blake Millican. Champion - Lance Millican

Reserve Champion - Morgan Hill
Grand Champion - Angie Harrell

Reserve Grand Champion - Kailey Howell

English Breeds Steers
1st. Clay Antilley; 2nd. Travis Pitcock

American Breeds & Crosses

1st. Cooper Riley; 2nd. Kanah Coalson; 3rd. Julie Riley

European Cross Steers

1st. Riley Coalson; 2nd. Clay Antilley; 3rd. Travis Pitcock; 4th. Cooper Riley

Grand Champion Steer - Riley Coalson

Reserve Grand Champion Steer - Clay Antilley

Champion Southdown - Taylor Percifull

Reserve Southdown - Briana Brisbin

Grand Champion Lamb - Lance Millican

Reserve Champion Lamb - Erin Millican

First Lightweight Goat - Emilee Yanez

First Mediumweight Goat - Lance Millican

First Light Heavy Goat - Chelsea Cook

First Heavyweight Goat - Jake McCabe

Grand Champion Goat - Jake McCabe

Reserve Grand Goat - Chelsea Cook

Lamb Showmanship - Erin Millican

Goat Showmanship - Garrett Jackson

Swine Showmanship - Kailey Howell

Steer Showmanship - Clay Antilley

Frank Percifull Overall Showmanship - Ashlee Millican

Ralph Walker Top Hand Award - Ashlee Millican



No stranger to the winner's circle, Erin Millican exhibited the Champion Finewool Lamb at this year's show. This entry was later named the Reserve Grand Champion Lamb. Erin also added another Showmanship win, this year in the Market Lamb class.



Kayla Medrano was the proud exhibitor of the Reserve Champion Black OPB (Other Pure Breeds) Pig.

Your patronage of the following stock show boosters is greatly appreciated.

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IVEY MOTOR COMPANY, INC.	GLENN-BIVINS INSURANCE Marilyn, Dee Anna, Lucretia, & Mary	HALL'S SUPER SAVE GROCERY Bronte
SKINNER'S GROCERY & TEXACO STATION	SHAFFER FUNERAL HOME & Monument Company	ROBERT LEE STATE BANK Member FDIC



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24b-3tc

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46a-tnc

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Ricon classic van wheelchair lift, 453-9400.
26a-1tp

FOR SALE
Brand new never been used Whirlpool electric stove. \$250. Call Shane or Stacey @ 234-7285.
26a-1tc

FOR SALE
1982 Chevy 1/2 ton pickup. Rebuilt 350 engine, new 3 row core radiator. Must see vehicle. Call 473-6600, Bronte.
26a-1tp

BANK SELL OFF
Seller financing. Move in tomorrow. \$500 DN/\$249.99 per mo. 310 W. 16th St., Robert Lee, TX. Call 1-800-373-4195.
26a-1tc

FOR SALE
I'm mad...at banks who don't give real estate loans because of bad credit, problems or new employment. I do, call L.D. Kirk, Homeland Mortgages, (254) 947-4475.
26a-1tp

NEED TO SALE
due to husbands health. 28 foot 5th wheel Hitchhiker 2 and a Murray riding lawnmower. 944-7424. Ask for Clea or leave message.
26a-1tc

FOR SALE
1990 Dodge Colt, \$1,000, OBO. Needs some engine work but does run. AC works.
453-9786.
26a-1tp

MOVING
For sale Almond Hotpoint refrigerator. Less than year old. Bought April 2000. 453-4522.
26a-1tp

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

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37a-tnc

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HELP WANTED
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36b-tnc

GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE
Saturday 7:30 - ?. 6 W. 15th St. Robert Lee.
26a-1tp

The rhea is a small South American bird that resembles the ostrich. After the female lays the eggs, the male sits on them until they hatch. He then raises the young.

NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that Coke County Commissioners Court will receive sealed bids in the office of the County Clerk, Courthouse, Robert Lee, Texas until 9:00 am Monday, February 12, 2001, for the following:

One acre of land located approximately 9 miles south of Bronte on Hwy 277, on the west side of 277 where deceased former Commissioner Jack Corley used to keep County equipment. The one acre is located out of Green DeWitt, Survey No. 11, Instrument No. 938.

For further information, please contact David Rawlings, Coke County Commissioner Precinct #4, at 915-473-6602.

Coke County Commissioners reserve the right to reject any and all bids.
Stover Taylor, County Auditor
Coke County, Texas
26a-2tc

RL residents give time & money to WTRC telethon

Robert Lee donors have contributed \$4,525 so far to the West Texas Rehab 2001 campaign. Leta Caston, chairman, reported that there were still some donations coming in.

Fifteen volunteers spent the evening of January 13th at Ivey Motor Company in Robert Lee manning the phone lines locally. They were responsible for contacting donors, picking up donations, doing the paper work, and reporting the donations to the television station.

Earlier in the month, Eva Horton, of the West Texas Rehab Center in San Angelo spoke to the '64 Study Club telling them how much the people of Robert Lee were appreciated. The Robert Lee citizens were the first to have a local effort to support Rehab. Robert Lee citizens also have one of the highest per capita donations in support of the rehab facilities in San Angelo and Abilene.

Volunteers who gave their time, money, and effort were Johnetta and Don Lawrence, Beverly and Jimmy Sinclair, Winton and Virginia Milliff, Reba Tabor, Thelma Jo Hinnard, Carolyn Long, Maybelle Stewart, Winnie Pitcock, Leta Caston and Adam Caston.

Bronte Jr. High girls basketball

On the 15th, the 7th grade girls lost against Sterling City by a score of 8-27. Bronte stats are as follows: Lilly 1 rebound, 4 steals, 2 points; Cheyanne 1 steal, 1 assist, 4 points; Chris 4 steals, 1 assist; Rebecca 2 rebounds, 2 points; Megan 2 rebounds, 2 steals; Bailey 1 rebound, 1 steal.

The 8th grade girls lost their game to Sterling City by a score of 8-25. Bronte stats are as follows: Jasmine 1 rebound, 2 steals; Calli 1 rebound, 1 steal, 3 points; Desi 5 rebounds, 1 steal, 3 points; Ashleigh 3 rebounds, 1 steal; Monica 10 rebounds, 2 steals, 2 points; Angeles 2 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 assist; Vanessa 3 rebounds.

Emergency farm loan applications

Applications for emergency farm loans for losses due to damages and losses caused by drought and excessive heat that occurred from January 1, 2000 and continuing, are being accepted at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office located in Sweetwater, TX.

Coke County was recently declared eligible for FSA EM Loss Loans.

Farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 80 percent of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue in business or \$500,000.00, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest is 3.75 percent.

As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of production to be eligible for an FSA emergency loan. Farmers participating in the PIK or Federal Crop Insurance program will have to figure in proceeds from those programs in determining their loss.

Applications for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until 8/20/2001, but farmers should apply as soon as possible. Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing.

FSA is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognized farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living. Eligibility is extended to individual farmers who are U.S. citizens and to farming partnerships, corporations or cooperatives in which U.S. citizens hold a majority interest.

The FSA office in Sweetwater is open from 7:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. For more information contact Dennis Cumbie, Farm Loan Manager, at 915-236-6337.

WTU files request to increase fuel factors

Natural gas prices, which have continued to skyrocket over the last several months, have forced American Electric Power's (AEP) West Texas Utilities Company (WTU) subsidiary to file a request with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) on January 19, 2001 for permission to increase fuel factors used to calculate the fuel charge portion of customers bills. This request is necessary in order to reflect the current expected costs of fuel.

If approved as requested, the new fuel factor would increase the typical WTU residential customer bills (using 1,000 kilowatt hours a month) by \$10.65 per month beginning in March. The requested fuel factors will recover over the period March through December 2001 an additional \$43 million in expected fuel costs.

However, the typical WTU residential customer does not use 1,000 kWh per month. Based on the most recent twelve months of data available, a typical WTU residential customer uses, on average, 904 kWh per month, which means that the new fuel factors would result in a monthly increase of \$9.19.

COUNTRY AGENTS
NEWS

by Tommy Antilley
Coke County Agent

Last chance CEU
Roundup

On Monday, February 5, local pesticide applicators will have the chance to earn five CEUs at the Last Chance CEU Roundup to be held in Ballinger. Two (2) hours of laws and regs, two (2) hours of IPM and one (1) hour of general will be issued at the conclusion of the day. The training will be held at the Old St. Mary's Hall in Ballinger. This event is sponsored by the Runnels and Concho County Extension Offices.

Agenda for the day is as follows:

- 8:30 am - Registration
- 9:00 am - Brush Management Strategies - Chemical Brush Control Options, Marty Gibbs-CEA-AG
- 10:00 am - Pest Management Strategies in Agriculture, Rick Minzenmayer-EA-IPM
- 11:00 am - Record Keeping, Mark Bills, TDA
- 12:00 am - Lunch, TDA
- Poster Series - Laws & Regs.
- 01:00 pm - Pest Management Strategies in Landscape, Dr. Chris Sansone-Extension Entomologist
- 02:00 pm - Adjourn

The fee for the day is \$25.00 which includes a noon meal. Please preregister by Friday, February 2, 2001, by calling Marty Gibbs (915) 365-2219, Rick Minzenmayer (915) 365-5212 or Michael Palmer (915) 732-4304.

All programs and information of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service are available to everyone without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. We will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for this meeting. We request that you contact the Runnels County Extension Office (915/365-2219) as soon as possible to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require.

Public awareness
campaign

The Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDPRS) has launched a statewide public awareness campaign for the Texas Youth Hotline aimed at troubled youth and families, according to Hotline Director, Jay Smith.

"The Texas Youth Hotline is



Bob Ragsdale purchased granddaughter Briana Brisbin's Reserve Champion Southdown Lamb in the premium auction.

answered 24 hours a day and provides prevention and crisis intervention services to callers who are in need of a caring voice and a listening ear," Smith said. "Hotline counselors talk with callers who face a variety of issues including family conflicts, delinquency, truancy, and abuse and neglect."

Smith said new television and radio public service announcements and more than 250,000 pieces of public awareness materials for schools, social service agencies, runaway shelters, law enforcement and youth-related organizations are aimed at bringing the troubled youth problem to wider public attention and to make youth and parents more aware of the services available.

"Many of today's youth who are lonely or angry do not have constructive ways of venting their frustrations," states Smith. "We offer a safe, non threatening environment where callers can discuss their problems with someone who will listen and not judge them. Hotline callers are urged to seek ongoing guidance and support from trusted adults, school

faculty, or local social service agencies."

"Our goal is to help minimize problems at home or school and prevent youth from becoming involved in delinquent, self-destructive behavior," explains Smith.

For additional information about the Texas Youth Hotline contact 1-800-210-2278 or visit www.texasyouth.org.

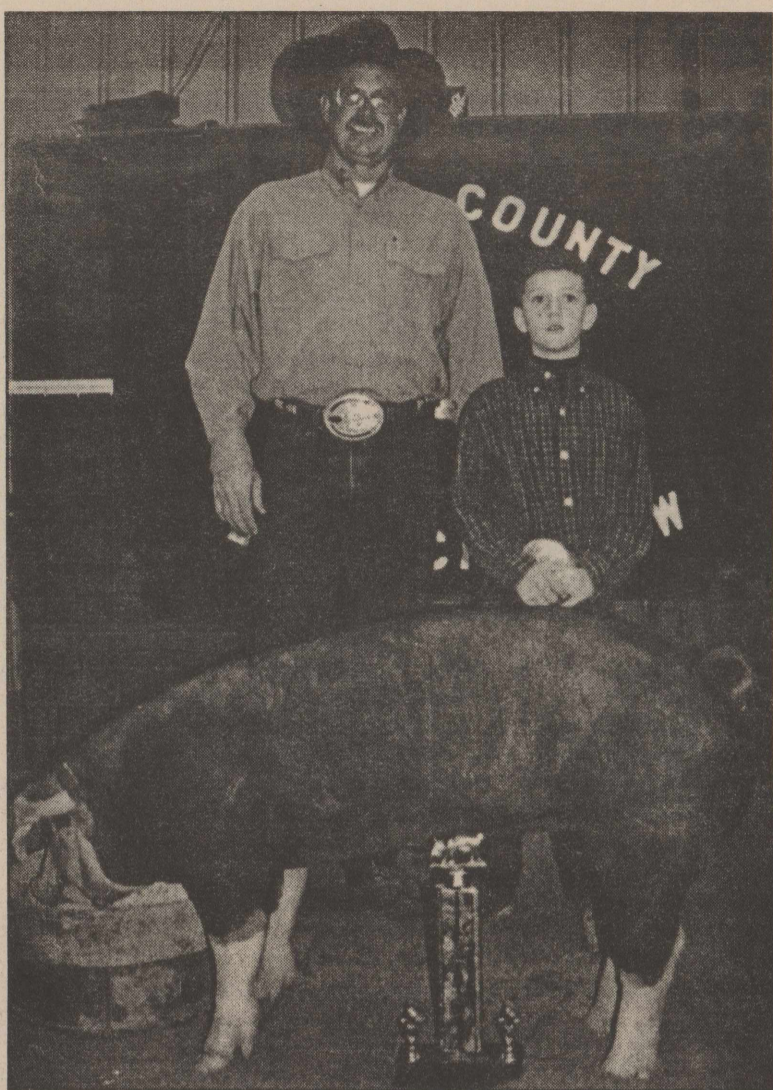
CC retired
teachers meet

The Coke County Retired Teachers Association met Monday, January 15, 2001, for a noon luncheon. The session was held at the First Baptist Church in Bronte.

Janet Wommack, president, presided at the business meeting. Nina Brewer, Community Service chairman, announced that each member's total volunteer hours for the past year are due. Please contact Nina if you have not reported on this.

The next meeting will be Monday, February 19, 2001, at the First Baptist Church in Bronte.

Members attending the meeting were: C.B. Barbee, Wanda Barbee, Emma Lee Bickley, Jimmy Bickley, R.W. Blackmon, Oleta Braswell, Nina Brewer, Wanda Brewer, Mary Frances Glenn, Kay Gothard, Paul Gothard, William Hood, Mary Lawhon, Bette McCutchen, Jerry McCutchen, Ida Lou Oliphant, Beth Prather, Kenneth Rasco, Gerald Sandusky, Janet Wommack, Lee Wommack, and guests: Edward Cumbe, Paul Evans, and Rick Howell.



Coke-Sterling Farm Bureau representative Russell Davis purchased Blake Millican's pig in the premium auction.



Longtime stock show supporter Dale Wojtek purchased Julie Riley's Hampshire Pig in the premium auction.

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Mike McCabe (left) purchased Jake McCabe's Grand Champion Meat Goat entry in the premium auction for Wayne McCabe.



Showmanship winners at this year's county stock show included (from left): Erin Millican - Lamb; Garrett Jackson - Goat; Kalley Howell - Swine; Clay Antilley - Steer; and Ashlee Millican - Frank Percifull Overall Showmanship winner.

Lawsuit abuse threatens business, hurts consumers

by Connie Yeats

Lawsuit abuse is taking a disturbing turn: the growth of abusive class action lawsuits.

Class action lawsuits have become the latest weapon of choice of some personal injury lawyers who are using these cases to pad their own pockets with millions of dollars. Now, many people are starting to ask where those millions come from? The answer is you, whether you're a small business person or consumer.

In theory, class action lawsuits are an easy way to speed up access to justice, consolidate legitimate claims and cut the cost of lawsuits. But more and more, class action lawsuits are being abused.

Today many of these suits are not about justice. They are about greed.

Class action lawsuits have become one of the biggest growth industries in the legal system. A study by the Federalist Society found that more of these cases are being filed in Texas courts and more businesses are being forced to settle without regard to the merits of the case. Juries rarely even hear these cases; they typically are settled before a single juror hears about them.

The same study showed that most of the plaintiffs in Texas cases are not even from Texas. Further, the study found that class action lawsuits filed in Texas state courts have a higher settlement rate than those in federal courts or in other state

courts across the country.

No matter where these lawsuits are filed, working men and women everywhere are picking up the tab.

Recently, class action lawsuits have been filed against technology companies, a toothbrush maker, a utility and - the latest target - health care plans. Whether or not these lawsuits are successful, the end result will hurt the very people the personal injury lawyers involved claim to protect - the consumer.

A class action lawsuit against a Texas computer maker shows how: Under the terms of the settlement, each class member got a \$13 rebate on new merchandise or \$6 in cash. The lawyers pocketed \$5.8 million in legal fees.

Or consider the health care lawsuits. While the idea of suing an HMO may appeal to some, we know the results will do more harm than good for consumers and the small businesses that provide health coverage.

Health care costs will increase as health plans defend themselves against these suits or pay any settlement costs. That means fewer small or large businesses will be able to offer health insurance. It means fewer Texans will enjoy access to health care coverage. Studies show that for every 1-percent increase in premiums, 300,000 to 400,000 people nationally lose their insurance coverage.

So, if what we need is health care reform, then it should be done in Congress, not the courts.

And if you still think these

lawsuits will improve health-care, consider the track record of many other class actions, such as these:

Southwestern Bell customers were told they would benefit from a class-action lawsuit. Instead they ended up with three optional phone services for three months or a \$15 credit if they already subscribed to these services. The lawyers pocketed \$4.5 million in fees.

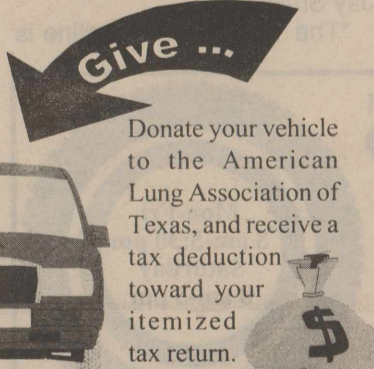
In 1997, lawyers got nearly \$2 million in fees in a settlement with Cheerios over a food additive where there was no evidence any consumer had been injured. That was nearly \$2,000 an hour for the personal injury lawyers. Consumers received a coupon for a free box of cereal.

It's obvious that there is a need for reform to stop these types of abuses. No one wants to eliminate class actions, which can be helpful to consumers when used the right way. But reform will help end many of the abuses that benefit lawyers at consumers' expense.

Connie Yeats is executive director of Bay Area Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse, a community coalition dedicated to raising awareness about the cost and consequences of lawsuit abuse.

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

With Jim Woodruff of Edward Jones

Registering securities in firm name can be bargain

In this day and age of \$150 designer purses, \$50,000 cars and \$1 million homes, bargains can be difficult to find. One bargain that's no secret, however, is registering securities in firm name.

When you register securities in firm name, a bank or brokerage firm takes physical possession of and manages the day-to-day responsibilities associated with your securities. Even though you no longer physically hold your stock or bond certificates, you retain control of the securities and can do with them as you wish.

Registering securities in firm name is truly a bargain when you consider this service typically costs little or nothing and could offer many advantages.

When securities are registered in firm name, the bank or brokerage firm that takes possession of your certificates:

- *Collects all interest and dividends from the securities for you;

- *Provides regular updates on the status of your securities;

- *Notifies you whenever your bonds are called or mature; and

- *Furnishes one simple annual tax-reporting form.

All of these are attractive services; however, the biggest advantage of registering securities in firm name is the safety this service provides. When your securities are registered in firm name, you no longer have to worry about them being lost, stolen or accidentally destroyed.

Consider, for example, this true story of a Washington investor. This self-made millionaire invested regularly in bonds. Although he registered some of his bonds in firm name, he didn't trust his investment firm's computer system with all his bonds.

Unfortunately, this proved to be a costly mistake. When

a group of children started a fire while playing with matches, the local fire department couldn't control the inferno. When the last ember had died, an entire apartment complex and 32 homes, including the home of the bond investor, were completely destroyed, even though the fire department was located just two blocks away.

Fortunately, no one was injured in the fire, but the bond investor lost \$1.2 million worth of securities in the blaze. Of course, the bonds could be replaced, but the cost of doing so was about \$24,000. That's an expensive lesson.

Some investors think it's safer to hold onto their stock and bond certificates. If you insist on holding your securities, remember to keep written records of all your certificates. Record the description, amount and certificate number of each security before placing it in a safe-deposit box. Then be sure to keep a close eye on the financial news to be on the lookout for bond calls, mergers, etc., in case you overlook an important piece of mail. And don't forget to notify each company of any change in your mailing address, even for a stock that does not pay dividends.

No one plans to lose a security, to have their property stolen or to lose their possessions in a natural or man-made disaster. Unfortunately, these are everyday occurrences. Why take a chance with your stock and bond certificates when registering securities in firm name is one of the best bargains available today.

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