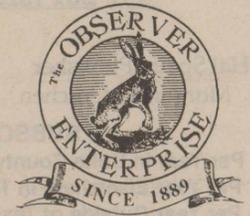


# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE



Serving Coke County

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

Vol. 113, No. 35

Friday, March 30, 2001

## Ballots set for May 5 local governing board elections

Coke County voters will go to the polls May 5 to fill vacancies on a number of local governing boards. Wednesday, March 21, at 5 pm was the last opportunity to file for a place on the ballot.

Three candidates will vie for two - 3 year terms on the Bronte Independent School

### (Fishy) plans progress in West Coke County

by Joan Davis

Although the weather has been cold and wet for fishermen, it has always been a good time in March and April for striper fishing. West Coke County initiated the Lake Spence Striper Contest this month to challenge area fishermen by offering a \$2,000 cash prize to the person who can break R. L. Flanagan's lake record. He is the current record holder with a monster 35 lb. 2 oz. striper taken on April 21, 1988.

A community fish fry and dance will be held on Saturday, April 21, to coincide with the record catch. A great group of sponsors kicked in \$100 each to put up the prize money for the contest.

Prices for the fish plates and the dance will be offered as a combo for \$6.00. The West Coke County Community Development, organizers of the feed, first thought to hold the meal and entertainment outdoors. With the unstable weather trend the last couple of weeks, plans now are to move into the large rec hall at the park in Robert Lee. The meal will be served from 5:00 until 7:00 pm with the dancing (or listening) to follow. No tickets will be sold, and everyone is welcome.

Organizers are pleased to announce the acquisition of Bobby Roundtree and the Good Ol' Boys Western Swing Band to play for the event.

District Board of Trustees. Incumbent Terry Charles will be challenged by Doug Hoyt, and Joe Sefcik.

Three people have filed for the two - 3 year openings on the Robert Lee Independent School District Board of Trustees. They include incumbent Darrel Pitcock, Bill Burns and Mark Riley.

Both the cities of Robert Lee and Bronte will be electing new city council members. Robert Lee has three council positions open. Incumbents Nita Stovall-Duncan, Johnny Carver, and Kenneth Green will face challenger Jim Reeves. Bronte has two council positions open. Gerald Sandusky has filed for re-election, along with newcomer Marty Boyd. The city has the option of cancelling the election since there is not a contested race.

East Coke County Hospital District will have two openings filled by the upcoming election. Filing for these openings were incumbents Jessie Sims and Donnie Thompson, joined by Jan Magness.

West Coke County Hospital District will also have two openings filled by the election. Incumbents Doug Wilkes and Judy Williams have filed to retain their seats. WCCHD also has the option of cancelling the election.

### Rabies clinic

The Coke County 4-H Clubs will be sponsoring a Rabies Vaccination Clinic on Saturday, April 7, 2001. The clinic will be held at the south end of the show barn at Robert Lee Park from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Pets 4 months of age or older should be immunized. Pets should be vaccinated for rabies annually.

### Daylight savings time returns

Daylight Savings Time will return to Coke County, and across the nation, Sunday, April 1 at 2:00 am. Most folks for the sake of convenience, will "spring forward" one hour on Saturday night.



David Hargrave, an Emergency Medical Technician, gave an educational presentation to Bronte's Early Childhood/Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and First Grade. (First Grade is not pictured.)

### EMT gives presentation

On Tuesday, March 20, 2001, David Hargrave, an Emergency Medical Technician for Coke County, gave a very educational presentation to Bronte's early childhood/pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade classes. Mr. Hargrave explained to the children how important an EMT is to our community. He talked to the children about 911 and demonstrated many duties of an EMT. The children brought stuffed animals to school and many of those animals were treated for injuries such as head injuries, broken arms, burns and stopped breathing. The children told Mr. Hargrave the injury of their animal and he demonstrated how he would be able to help them. Using the stuffed animals, he was able to demonstrate such procedures as taking blood pressure, listening for a heart beat, CPR and treating injuries and other emergency medical procedures. The children were able to see the inside of an ambulance and the emergency lights on and hear the siren. After the presentation, some children said that when they grow up that they would like to be an Emergency Medical Technician. David Hargrave and other EMT's - You have made a positive impact on our students and community.

### National flood insurance plan approved for county

Coke County has been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the National Flood Insurance Program effective February 21, 2001.

Anyone constructing a residential structure outside of the city limits of Bronte or Robert Lee within Coke County should come by the Coke County Judge's office and obtain a Development Permit Application. There will be a \$20 permit fee. The application will be processed from the Judge's office. If the structure is close to a stream or lake, the Commissioners will examine site and make recommendations.

What does this mean to you? You will be eligible for flood insurance, up to the limits under the Emergency Phase of the program. However, there is a 30-day waiting period before the coverage goes into effect. For single family homes, this limit is \$35,000 and \$10,000 for the contents. Renters can also protect their belongings through the content coverage. For commercial properties, this limit is \$100,000. After the initial Emergency Phase, higher limits of coverage will be available.

You can receive further information regarding this in the Judge's office.

### Gospel singing Sunday

The regular monthly community gospel singing will be held Sunday, April 1st from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Central Baptist Church in Bronte. Everyone in the area is invited to come and enjoy this fellowship time together.

### Pageant association to meet

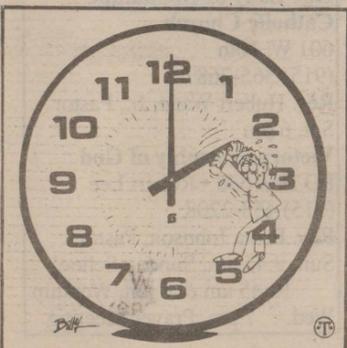
The Coke County Pageant Association will meet on Thursday, April 5 at Robert Lee City Hall at 7:00 pm. All interested area residents are encouraged to attend.

### Roping Club slates practice sessions

The Coke County Roping Club will begin their roping season this Sunday, April 1, at the arena in Bronte. Practice sessions will be held every Sunday beginning at 2:00 pm, and each Wednesday from 7:00 until 10:00 pm. For more information contact Cindy Saunders at 473-2028.

### Robert Lee singing

There will be a community gospel singing of all denominations at the Robert Lee Victory Assembly of God Church on March 31, 2 pm to 4 pm. J. D. Taylor of Blackwell will be conducting the singing and everyone is invited to attend.



**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

**Obituaries**

**Parker**

Katie Sue Parker, 77, was born in Bronte, Tx. on July 18, 1923. She passed away Wednesday, March 21, 2001 at Harris Methodist Hospital in Erath Co. Services were held at 2:00 pm, Saturday, March 24, 2001, at Stephenville First Baptist Church with the Rev. Emil V. Becker and assisted by Rev. Pat Bush with burial following in the Gardens of Memory Cemetery. Arrangements were handled by Lacy Funeral Home in Stephenville, Tx.

She married Fred Parker June 2, 1946 in Robert Lee, Tx. They moved from Ozona to Stephenville in 1950.

She was a member of the Bluff Dale Baptist Church and was a church organist/pianist for 67 years. She dedicated her life to God, family, teaching, music and friends. She played for the graduates of Stephenville for 37 years. She was a member of the Bluff Dale Garden Club, Retired Teachers Association and she received the Lamar award from Bluff Dale Masonic Lodge #727 which is a prestigious Service Award. She was a retired teacher. She taught music in the Ozona and Stephenville ISD for 25 years.

She is survived by her husband Fred Parker of Stephenville; two sons, Fred Bruce Parker and William Wayne Parker both of Stephenville; one brother and sister-in-law, Eddie Paul & Billie Good of Plano, Tx; 4 grandchildren, Britney Kate & husband Bryan Webb, Kalley

Lee Parker, Justin Curt Parker, and Jordan Wade Parker, all of Plano. She is also survived by a host of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Paul & Garland Good.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or the Bluff Dale Baptist Church, PO Box 54, Bluff Dale, Tx, 76433.

35a-1tp

**Death Notices**

**Henderson**

Ted Henderson, 84, formerly of Marathon, died on Thursday, March 22, in Robert Lee Care Center. Military graveside service was held on Monday, March 26, in Marathon Cemetery, under the direction of Geeslin Funeral Home of Alpine.

His survivors include three granddaughters and two grandsons.

**Gonzalez**

Emilia A. Gonzalez, 64, of El Paso died Friday, March 23, 2001. Rosary was conducted at 7 pm Tuesday, March 27, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Robert Lee. Service was held at 10 am Wednesday at the church with burial in Robert Lee Cemetery. Arrangements were by Shaffer Funeral Home.

Survivors include sons, Mario Gonzalez, Daniel Gonzalez and Oscar Gonzalez; daughters, Corina Guerra and Lourdes

Gonzalez; brothers Guillermo Abalos, Juan Abalos, Jose Abalos, Selso Abalos, and Manuel Abalos; sisters, Margarita Jacobo, Felicitus Gonzalez, Manuela Gonzalez, Maria Gonzalez, Alejandra Purcell, Juanita Robles and Aurora Avalog.

**Fearn**

LaDair Sherrill Fearn, 79, died Sunday, March 25, 2001. Service was held at 3 pm Wednesday, March 28, 2001, at First United Methodist Church. Arrangements were by Shaffer Funeral Home.

Survivors include her husband, Don Fearn of Robert Lee; sons, Mike Sherrill of Las Vegas and Charles Sherrill of Robert Lee; daughter, Ginger Spradling of Sabinal; 6 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

**Taft**

John Wesley Taft Jr., 73, died Wednesday, March 21 at his home in Spring Branch, Tx. Funeral arrangements were by Croft Funeral Home in Blanco, Tx. A military graveside service was held at 9:15 am, March 23, at the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, Tx.

Survivors include his wife Dorothy of Spring Branch; two sons, Curtis Taft of Floresville and Gene Taft of San Antonio; one daughter, Barbara Taft of San Antonio; four brothers, Harry Taft of Guthrie, Ok, George Taft of Amarillo, Robert Taft of Robert Lee, Gerald Taft of Bronte, one sister, Imogene Nixon of San Angelo; 5 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Coke County native to sing at Carnegie Hall**

The Sanctuary Choir of Christ United Methodist Church, College Station, in the Bryan District of the Texas Conference has been invited by composer Dr. John Leavitt to perform his new work, "Requiem," under his direction on Sunday, April 1, at Carnegie

Hall in New York City. Joining the 86 members of Christ UMC Choir will be 114 other voices, accompanied by a symphony orchestra from New York City.

While tours and concert venues are available to many choirs in all denominations, receiving an invitation directly from the composer is considered an honor. Carnegie Hall has been host to this distinguished artist series for almost 30 years. Dr. Leavitt is one of four major directors for this series, one of whom is John Rutter, renowned musician and composer.

Christ UMC's dedication to music as a vital part of ministry was part of the reason Dr. Leavitt chose the choir. While word of mouth helped in the decision process, the audition tape submitted by the Sanctuary Choir ultimately resulted in the invitation.

Dr. Leavitt was at Christ UMC for a clinic in August 2000, and led the choir during two worship services. In addition, the Music Ministry had commissioned Dr. Leavitt to write an anthem commemorating Christ UMC's Fifth Anniversary. That composition was first performed during the Fifth Anniversary Celebration.

A native of Coke County, Carolyn Braswell will sing with the choir. Carolyn is the daughter of Essie Childress and the late Melvin Childress of Robert Lee. Carolyn and her husband Eddie Braswell were part of the mission team from A&M United Methodist Church that started Christ United Methodist Church in 1995. The members met in a junior high school and choir rehearsals were held in the Braswell home. A new church building was dedicated in 1998 and recently the church acquired a building on adjacent property to accommodate programs for the growing membership of 1600.

**Local judge attends seminar**

Judge Jack G. Moore was certified at the recent Twenty Hour Justice of the Peace

Seminar held February 27 - March 2, 2001 in South Padre Island, Texas. The seminar was sponsored by the Texas Justice Court Training Center, a division of Southwest Texas State University, with offices in Austin, Texas. The seminar is one of five held for elected Justices of the Peace so they can fulfill their Continuing Judicial Education Requirements as set forth in Article 27.005 of the Texas Government Code. The seminar addressed topics such as Judicial Ethics, Judicial Decision Making, Traffic Laws, Inquests, Chapter 45, Magistrate Duties and Consulate Issues, Alcohol/Tobacco Laws, Landlord Tenant Issues, Contempt, Small Claims vs Justice Court, Miscellaneous Hearings and Trial Procedure.

**Race developing in hospital board election**

As of March 21, 2001 three candidates have signed up for Board of Directors for East Coke County Hospital District for two places.

Jan Magness will face incumbents Jesse Sims and Donnie Thompson in the May 5, 2001 election.

Early voting will be held at Bronte Health & Rehab Center, 900 S. State St., Bronte, Texas beginning April 18, 2001 through May 1, 2001 between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

**Churches of Robert Lee**

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**Emmanuel Pentecostal**  
PO Box 683 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy  
(915) 453-2360

Rev. Ray Aldridge, Pastor  
Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm  
**First United Methodist Church**  
PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne  
(915) 453-2417

Rev. Jim Reeves, Pastor  
Sun. 10 am Sunday School  
11 am Worship  
Wed. 7 pm Choir

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

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

Rev. Dale Patterson, Pastor  
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School  
11 am & 7 pm, Worship  
**Southside Church of Christ**  
PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston  
(915) 453-2176

Frank J. Daniels, Preacher  
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School  
11 am & 6 pm, Worship  
Wed. 7 pm, Worship  
**Robert Lee Baptist Church**  
PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th  
(915) 453-2724

Bro. Waide Messer, Pastor  
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School  
11 am & 7 pm, Worship  
Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting  
**Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church**  
601 W. 10th  
(915) 365-2687

Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor  
Sat. 6 pm

**Victory Assembly of God**  
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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**The Family of**

**Johnny Sevier**

wishes to express our  
sincere appreciation to all  
our many friends in  
Robert Lee for the  
kindness shown during the  
loss of our loved one.

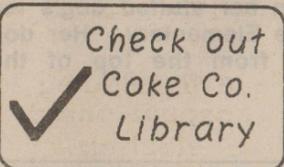
**Weidenfeller - Scott exchange vows**

Kay Weidenfeller of San Angelo and Mickey Scott of San Angelo were married on March 9, 2001 at Central Baptist Church in Bronte with Rev. R. W. Blackmon officiating. Kay is the daughter of Roger and Arlene Weidenfeller of Fredericksburg and Mickey is the son of Ken and Linda Scott of Odessa and Loretta Scott of Ft. Stockton.

Kay is employed by San Angelo ISD as a reading specialist and Mickey is owner of Tel Pro Communications. They took a wedding trip to New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. They will make their home in San Angelo.



Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Scott



**National Library Week**

National Library Week begins April 1st. The logo this year is "@your library." The logo reminds that the library is where the answers are, where the entertainment is, and where everyone is welcome. A friend of the library in Robert Lee says the library is the mind's gymnasium.

Other quotes made of libraries include one from John Goodman, "When I was young, we couldn't afford much but, my library card was my key to the world. Walter Cronkite said, "Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation." Sidney Sheldon said, "Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of Life. Libraries change lives for the better."

This is the week to come to the library and get a library card. Library cards are free. Join the folks in Robert Lee, who know what libraries are all about - they checked out 6,532 books in 1999-2000. The library is open 52 weeks a year and that is an average of over 100 books a week.

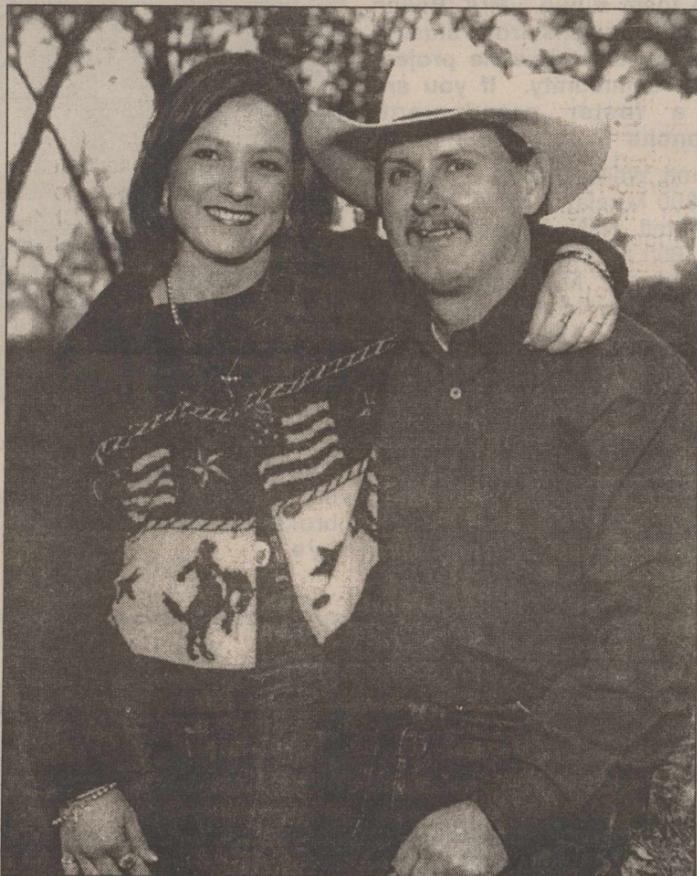
Some statistics from the American Library Association show that in a 1998 poll conducted by Gallup, it was found that nearly all respondents expect libraries to be needed in the future, despite the increased availability in information via computer.

Research shows that the highest achieving students attend schools with good library media centers. One other statistic shows that Americans check out an average of seven books a year. They spend \$23 a year in taxes for the public library - much less than the average cost of one hardcover book.

Coke County Library hours are: Tuesday, 8-12; Wednesday, 8-4; Thursday, 1-5; Friday, 8-12. Story hour is Tuesday at 10 am. Head Start Time is Wednesday at 10 am.

**Meeting slated as aid to rural economic development**

The Concho Valley Council of Governments, in conjunc-



Mr. and Mrs. Jerry T. Parker of Bronte, are proud to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Michele Lee, to Nathan Quinton Bearden of San Angelo. He is the son of Mrs. Mary Bearden Carter and the stepson of Lester Carter of San Angelo. The couple will exchange wedding vows June 2, 2001, at First Baptist Church in Bronte.

tion with the Texas Department of Agriculture, is sponsoring a Telecommunications Infrastructure meeting as an aid to Rural Economic Development.

The meeting will be held on March 30, 2001 at 2:00 pm at the Texas A&M Experiment Station, 7887 US Hwy 87 N., San Angelo, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss issues of concern in the Concho Valley Region. The main counties to be addressed are Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton and Tom Green.

Issues to be discussed are:

1. Eliminating the long dis-

ance charge for all calls made from within the Concho Valley Region to any other portion of the Concho Valley

2. Internet service for rural and frontier areas

3. Faster internet service

4. Local contacts for telephone information

5. More wireless access in rural and frontier areas

6. 9-1-1 emergency calls go to the nearest dispatch

Presentations will be given by Darrell J. Guthrie, Director of Public Utility Commission, Bob Bates, Regional Manager of Verizon, Steve Price, Manager of Internet Sales at West Central Internet and Terry McBurney, Manager of Cellular One.

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**Blue Bell Ice Cream** 2 1/2 gal. round / **\$7**

# Bronte School News

## Longhorn JV track results

In the Sterling City relays, Bronte JV placed as follows:  
 3200 M - 3rd - Chase Williams  
 400 M relay - 2nd - Rodney McLain, Cody Lee, Tyson Baker, Garrett Fiveash  
 100 M - 1st - Garrett Fiveash; 6th - Jeremy Sanchez  
 400 M - 2nd - Cody Lee  
 200 M - 5th - Charlie Bettis  
 1600 M - 3rd - Kevin Huddleston; 4th - Chase Williams  
 1600 M relay - 2nd - Garrett Fiveash, Tyson Baker, Rodney McLain, Cody Lee  
 Shot put - 1st - Scott Snyder; 2nd - Jeremy Sanchez; 4th - Casey McKee  
 Discus - 3rd - Scott Snyder; 4th - Jeremy Sanchez; 6th - Casey McKee  
 Triple jump - 3rd - Garrett Fiveash; 5th - Joel Webb  
 Long jump - 2nd - Charlie Bettis  
 High jump - 1st - Cody Lee; 2nd - Charlie Bettis

## Longhorn varsity track results

In the Sterling City relays, Bronte Longhorns placed as follows:  
 110 M hurdles - 1st - Henry White  
 100 M - 2nd - Jesse McClure  
 400 M - 1st - Josh Schoenfield  
 300 M hurdles - 2nd - Henry White  
 200 M - 3rd - Jesse McClure  
 1600 M relay - 2nd - Ryan McCorkle, Zeb Speary, Brandon Gibbs, Josh Schoenfield  
 Shot put - 1st - Steve Eldred; 4th - Nick Shaw; 5th - Henry White

## SCHOOL MENU



### Breakfast

**Monday, April 2**  
 Cereal, apple sauce, blueberry muffins, milk  
**Tuesday, April 3**  
 Sausage, grape juice, pancakes, milk  
**Wednesday, April 4**  
 Breakfast burrito, apple juice, cinnamon toast, milk  
**Thursday, April 5**  
 Scrambled eggs, hash-browns, biscuit, milk  
**Friday, April 6**  
 French toast sticks, mixed fruit, pop tart, milk

### Lunch

**Monday, April 2**  
 Fish sticks, blackeyed peas, macaroni & cheese, sliced peaches, rolls, milk  
**Tuesday, April 3**  
 Tacos with cheese, pinto beans, lettuce & tomato, Spanish rice, taco shells, milk, brownies  
**Wednesday, April 4**  
 Grilled cheese sandwich, beef & vegetable soup, carrot sticks, corn bread, milk, peanut butter cookies  
**Thursday, April 5**  
 Lasagna, tossed salad, sweet corn, bread sticks, milk, jello  
**Friday, April 6**  
 Hot dogs, chili & cheese, tator tots, baked beans, bun, milk, rice krispie bars



Nina Bivins, Bronte Foster Grandparent, listens to Creed Coalson read a story. As a foster grandparent, Mrs. Bivins comes to Bronte Elementary each day from 8 am to noon. She listens to children read, helps with math, and takes time to just talk to the kids and give them a hug. Mrs. Bivins said it really helped keep her four walls from closing in on her at home by giving her a worthwhile project that helps the children of our community. If you are interested in becoming a foster grandparent, contact Nina Bivins or Concho Valley Council of Governments.

Triple jump - 1st - Josh Schoenfield; 2nd - Jesse McClure  
 High jump - 1st - Ryan McCorkle

## Lady Longhorns track results

On the 23rd, the Bronte varsity girls entered the Sterling City relays and placed as follows:  
 High jump - 2nd - Codi Monsey - 4' 10"; 3rd - Stormy White - 4' 8"  
 Long jump - 2nd - Codi Monsey - 15' 7 3/4"; 3rd - Tasha Reed - 14' 7 3/4"  
 Triple jump - 4th - Kala Arrott - 30' 6 1/2"; 5th - Stormy White - 30' 1"  
 Shot put - 3rd - Lindsay Springer - 29' 5 3/4"  
 400 M relay - 3rd - Reed, Ar-

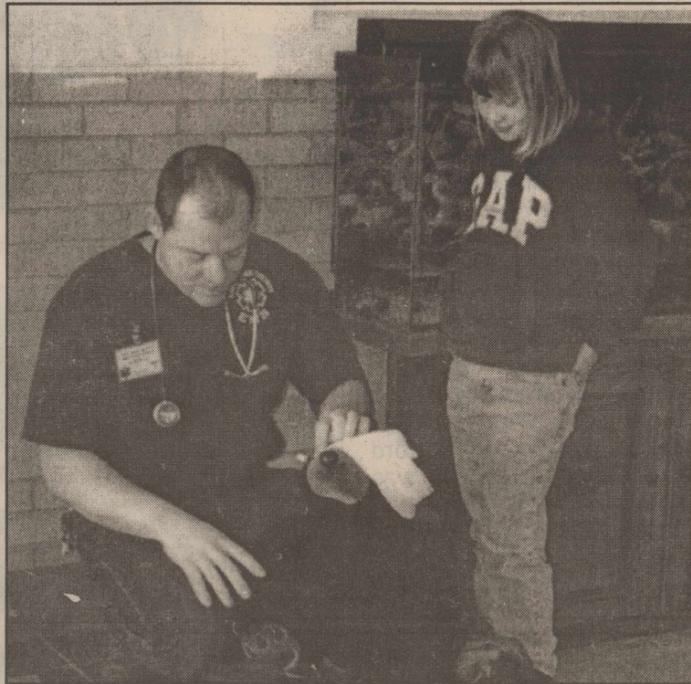
rott, White, Coalson - 53.89  
 800 M relay - 3rd - Coalson, Arrott, White, Monsey - 1:54.9  
 1600 M relay - 2nd - Reed, Britney, McCutchen, McCoulskey, Monsey - 4:27.7  
 800 M - 4th - Crissie McCoulskey - 2:43.8  
 100 M - 3rd - Monsey - 13.34  
 100 M hurdles - 5th - Reed - 18.54  
 400 M - 3rd - Williams - 68.06  
 300 M hurdles - 5th - Richey - 58.61  
 200 M - 3rd - White - 29.02  
 1600 M - 3rd - Howell - 6:31.7

## BISD board of trustees election

Bronte ISD had three people file for two full three year positions in the May 5th election: Terry Charles, incumbent, Doug Hoyt, and Joe Sefcik.



Kimberly Lee, Bronte 1st grader, listens as David Hargrave, local EMT, works on her stuffed dog's leg during a recent visit to Bronte Elementary. Her dog broke his leg when he fell from the top of the television.



Katie Austin brought her stuffed bear to Bronte EMT David Hargrave with an injury to its eye. The bear was climbing on the mirror when the mirror broke and the bear had a piece of glass stuck in his eye.

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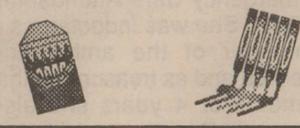
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**RL students attend language festival**

The Robert Lee High School Spanish I, II, III students recently attended the Foreign Language Festival at Angelo State University. Over 2,500 students competed in French, German, Latin and Spanish. Students competed in sight-reading, poetry, prose, written tests and skit. The group presented the skit of Cenicienta (Cinderella). The following students competed in the festival: Ashlee Millican, Shanna Wojtek, Melissa Landeros, Bret Ballew, Sammy Minjarez, Lane Arledge, Jodee Helwig, Jaime Gallegos, Rachel Wallace, Charles Abalos, Mary Arellano, Tyler Lott, J.J. Reyes, Cristina Saucedo, Jessica Fluhmann, Cole Flanagan, Billy Williams, Nicole Sanchez, Debra Barron, Brian Abalos, Monica Barrera, Katy Pedersen, Misti Brothers, Amber Brosh, April Cowart, Kindra Johnson, Jennifer Nesbit, Becky Welch, Amie Kendall, Shelby Roe, Krystal Soliz, Travis Pitcock, Juan Olguin, Jaziel Gallegos, Kindra Matthews, Robert Sailer, Kelly Lockstedt, Adam Cates, Jennifer Hamilton, Stephanie Balderas, Salomon Saucedo, Taylor Clendennen, Amanda Kuhl, Tiffany Copeland, Erin Millican, Christina Middleton, Cooper Riley, Monica Rodriguez, Rachelle Mills, Amber Freeman, and Bobbie Sparks. The results for the Foreign Language Festival are as follows:

Brian Abalos - skit - superior  
 Charles Abalos - prose - superior  
 James Gallegos - written test - excellent; prose - excellent  
 Mary Arellano - sight reading - superior; poetry - excellent  
 Cristina Saucedo - poetry - superior; sight reading - superior  
 Rachel Wallace - poetry - superior  
 Shelby Roe - poetry - superior

**SCHOOL MENU**



**Breakfast**

**Monday, April 2**  
 Orange juice, French toast, sausage, cereal, milk  
**Tuesday, April 3**  
 Orange juice, donut, cereal, milk  
**Wednesday, April 4**  
 Orange juice, breakfast pizza, cereal, milk  
**Thursday, April 5**  
 Orange juice, cinnamon roll, cereal, milk  
**Friday, April 6**  
 Orange juice, biscuit, sausage, cereal, milk

**Lunch**

**Monday, April 2**  
 Pizza, corn, salad, gingerbread, milk  
**Tuesday, April 3**  
 Chicken O's, hash browns, English peas, rolls, peanut butter supreme, milk  
**Wednesday, April 4**  
 Baked potato, chili w/crackers, peaches, milk  
**Thursday, April 5**  
 Chicken A La King over rice, green beans, cinnamon apples, rolls, milk  
**Friday, April 6**  
 Hamburgers, lettuce/tomatoes, French fries, pears, milk

Ashlee Millican - prose - superior  
 Nicole Sanchez - poetry - superior; skit - superior  
 Billy Williams - skit - superior  
 Debra Barron - skit - superior; poetry - excellent; written test - excellent  
 Jaziel Gallegos - prose - superior; written test - excellent; sight reading - excellent  
 Monica Barrera - skit - superior; prose - superior; written test - excellent  
 Juan Olguin - written test - superior; sight reading - superior  
 Katy Pedersen - skit - superior  
 Melissa Landeros - prose - superior; written test - excellent

**RLISD board members resign**

The Robert Lee ISD Board of Trustees met in its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 22, 2001. Board members accepted the resignations of board members Ray Aldridge and Harvey Wojtek. In his resignation letter Trustee Aldridge cited lack of time to fulfill his board duties. He works at a day job and also pastors a local church. Trustee Wojtek stated the resignation "to be in my best interest". Aldridge was in the first year of a three-year term and Wojtek in his second year.

Trustees appointed Eula Fay Blair as election judge for the May 5 election. Darrel Pitcock, Bill Burns, and Mark Riley are the candidates for 2 at-large board positions. Pitcock is the only incumbent. The two positions opened by resignations will be filled later.

In other action, the board approved recommendations of the district textbook committee. Textbooks adopted included Language Arts in elementary and high school and high school speech and journalism. Also approved was the sale of one of the district's older buses at auction.

Supt. Weldon Koepf reported that 3 teachers had enrolled in the Retirement Incentive Program. These teachers will not return next year and will receive incentive payments for taking early retirement.

The board also heard reports from Elementary Principal Janet Wallace and High

**Robert Lee School News**



Photo taken by Kelly Lockstedt.

Robert Lee High School Spanish students competed at the Foreign Language Festival at Angelo State University. Students competing were (front row, from left) Cole Flanagan, Monica Rodriguez, Amber Freeman, Katy Pedersen, Bobbie Sparks, Becky Welch, Billy Williams, (second row, from left) Jaziel Gallegos, Kindra Matthews, Juan Olguin, Soloman Saucedo, Christina Middleton, Monica Barrera, Jessica Fluhmann, Debra Barron, Mary Arellano, (third row, from left) James Gallegos, Taylor Clendennen, Shelby Roe, Stephanie Balderas, Rachelle Mills, Jennifer Nesbit, Amber Brosh, April Cowart, Kindra Johnson, (fourth row, from left) Lane Arledge, Adam Cates, Cooper Riley, Sammy Minjarez, Charles Abalos, Rachel Wallace, Bret Ballew, Jennifer Hamilton, Erin Millican, Travis Pitcock, Brian Abalos, Tyler Lott, Ashlee Millican, Amie Kendall, Nicole Sanchez, Amanda Kuhl, Cristina Saucedo, Robert Sailer, J. J. Reyes, Melissa Landeros, (back row, from left) Misti Brothers, Krystal Soliz, Jodee Helwig, Tiffany Copeland and Shanna Wojtek.

School Principal Lindsey Wallace.

Before adjourning, trustees approved the renewal of teacher contracts for the 2001-2002 school year.

**RLHS golf results**

The Grape Creek Invitational Tournament was played at the Riverside Golf course in San Angelo on March 22. The Steers finished 3rd and the Lady Steers came in 1st.

With 11 teams entered, the Bronte boys received 1st with 344 points; Coahoma 2nd with 348; and Robert Lee came in 3rd with 348. Robert Lee individual results are as follows: Beau Blair - 83; Stewart Millican - 87; Salomon

Saucedo 88; Colby Eubanks 90; Taylor Clendennen 104; Josh Alexander 105; Tim Messer - 119.

There were only 5 teams entered in the girls division with Robert Lee 1st with 388 points; Mason 2nd with 424;

Midland Christian 3rd with 461. Robert Lee individual results are as follows: Whitney Millican 85 (2nd medalist); Dee Van Huss 97 (3rd medalist); Dixie Simpson 99; Shanna Wojtek 107; Amber Brosh 109; Jennifer Nesbit 111.

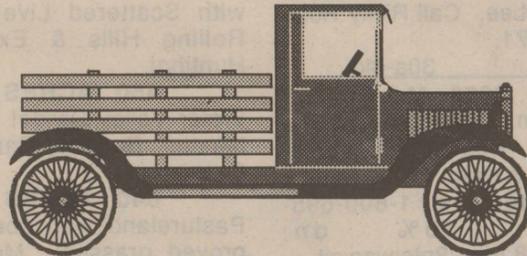
**In Memory**

*When tomorrow starts without me  
 And I'm not there to see,  
 Remember that love is the key  
 That connects us with eternity.  
 As I ran on the track on that spring day,  
 An angel came and said that I could not stay.  
 I could not bear the thought of leaving you behind.  
 But our heavenly Father had a bigger plan in mind.  
 And I had so much to live for  
 Even though life continues on heavenly shore.  
 I'll always remember the fun we had, and yet,  
 For the things I shouldn't have done  
 He forgives and I regret.  
 If I could, I'd wrap my big arms around you for I could  
 See all the prayers, cards, care, and memorials you gave My  
 Earthly family.  
 When you think of me, there I'm with you still.  
 Look to the light, reflect His heavenly love, and trust our  
 Master's will.*

**In memory of KIRK BAGWELL  
 June 29, 1980 - March 27, 1996**

**For Your Convenience  
 Our  
 Drive-Through  
 Banking Hours**

**8:30 am to 2:30 pm  
 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
 Monday through Friday**



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 State Bank**

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 Robert Lee, Texas

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16¢ Per Word  
(\$2.50 Minimum)

*Additional 50¢ charged for Blind Ads*

Legal Notices...  
25¢ Per Word

**ADVERTISING DEADLINE**  
*Tuesdays at 5 pm*

**FOR SALE**

**153 ACRES**  
with 3 BR/1BA home. Horse pens/6 stalls.

**275 +/- ACRES**  
on Yellow Wolf Creek.

**COKE COUNTY**  
2350 +/- acres. Will divide.  
**NORTH OF ROBERT LEE**  
1242 +/- acres. Will Divide.

**CLOSE TO RL SCHOOL**  
Brick home. 2 Bedroom, 1 1/2 Bath, Fireplace. Priced below appraisal. 205 W. 15th.

*Other Listings Available.*

**ASH & MILLICAN REAL ESTATE**  
**453-5144 OFFICE**

**JOE ASH** **MARSHALL MILLICAN**  
473-0164 MOBILE 473-0437 MOBILE  
453-2554 HOME 453-9002 HOME

**LAKE SPENCE**  
2 Bedroom, 865 sq. ft., white metal roof. 453-2101.

**LATE MODEL GMC**  
and Chevrolet pickup alternatives \$65. Installed while you wait. Warren Tomlinson 655-0362.

**FOR SALE**

1998 Dodge Caravan; city lots corner 16th & Chadbourne, Robert Lee. Call Ricky Ross 453-4671.

**\$369 Mo.**

4 bdrm, 2 ba, s/s fridge, freezer, washer/dryer, dishwasher & much more! Call for free Brochure. 1-800-698-8003. 10% dn; 360mo/8.5apr;8pts;wac;cit.

**FOR SALE**

160 acres (would divide). Less than four miles from Bronte. Live Oaks, 46 acres in grass fields (fenced separately), natural water. Deer, turkey, quail. (915) 473-3201.

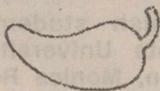
24a-tnc

**OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN**  
4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, 2 story home w/acreage.



**453-2995**

**MARIA'S HOT TAMALES**  
\$6/dozen. Delivered daily each morning. Call 453-2075.



**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**

in Robert Lee. Previously operated as a convenience/grocery store. Good location near school with highway frontage. Call 915-453-2545.

**FOR SALE BRONTE**

124 Randal (behind Town & Country) 3 Bd/2 bath, garage/fenced yard. Cottonwood Real Estate, Mary Slimp, Broker. (915) 754-4081.

**913 W. 11TH STREET**  
Large Brick 3 Bedroom Home in established Neighborhood. Huge Bonus Room could be Den or 4th Bedroom. 2 Car Garage & 2 Car Carport! Sprinkler syst. & Pecan trees!  
**3 BEDROOM HOME IN BRONTE!**

Fireplace & 11 ft. Ceilings! Formal Dining Room with French Doors! Huge Storage Bldg./Shop \$30's!!!

**TENNYSON AREA!**  
25 Acres with 3 Bedroom Rock Home. Barn, Excellent Fencing & 2 Water Wells! \$50's!!!

**US HWY 277 BRONTE**  
41 Acres with 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Home with Live Oaks, Pens, Barn, & another older Home!

**160 ACRES**  
with Scattered Live Oaks, Rolling Hills & Excellent Hunting!

**450 ACRES**  
Water Valley Divide! Mountainous, Rugged, Remote & Scenic!

**640 ACRES**  
Pastureland with some improved grasses! Mountain views with Excellent Hunting.

**860 ACRES**  
Northwest of Silver! Rugged, Remote & Excellent Hunting!

**CONCHO REALTY**  
**Becky Clendennen**  
Office - 653-4535  
Home - 453-4748

35a-tnc

**LAKE HOUSE AT ROBERT LEE**  
on one acre. 2 BR, 1 bath, wraparound wood deck and stone patio. \$25,000. Call Sherry Burnett, agent with Edson Wasson Realtors. 915-366-7331 or 915-352-1842.

**FOR SALE AT**  
Oak Creek. 3 bedroom mobile home, fenced. Call for information. \$2500 total. 473-6706

**FOR SALE**  
1 - upright piano - needs tuning \$100.00. 1 - electric stove - \$70.00.

**WOW**  
\$288 per mo. 3 bdrm/2ba. S/W. 1-800-698-8003  
10%dn;8pts;9.75apr;cpm, wac.

**FOR RENT**

**BRONTE MINI STORAGE**  
has storage buildings for rent. Call 473-2221.

**FOR RENT**  
2 BR mobile home w/add on. CH/CA. Total electric. Very Clean. Flanagan. 453-4359.

**FOR RENT**  
2 bedroom house for rent in Robert Lee. Call 453-4382.

**FOR RENT**  
3 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home. Central heat & air, in Robert Lee. 453-4609.

**MISC**

**FOUND**  
Border Collie/Beagle pup female. To claim or to adopt (FREE) 453-4459. Picture at Key Feed.

**SUNSHINE CONSTRUCTION**  
New Construction, Additions, Renovations, and Home Repairs. Contact Don Parks @ 453-2860 or 450-2767 mobile.



**Bob Fragee's 944-0010 473-6603**  
**Texas Best**  
Deflooding & Carpet Cleaning  
24 hr. Emergency Water Damage Service

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

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

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

**THE "BARBER" SHOP**  
Debora England, 223 N. Lombard, Bronte. 473-4026. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9 am-6 pm.

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

**MOWERS REPAIRED**  
305 E. 3rd, Robert Lee. 453-2363.

**TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL**  
**ADD DAVIS 453-2450.**

**FOR RENT: THE RUG DOCTOR**  
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Machine  
**Hometown Hardware**  
Bronte, Texas

**ARE YOU LOOKING**  
for a babysitter? Stay at home mom wishes to babysit in her home Monday thru Friday. FMI call Kim 473-6028.

**WANTED**  
TV repairman for big screen Pioneer TV. 453-2726.

**WANTED**  
Deer lease for 2 to 3 people. Call 484-3408.

**HELP WANTED**

**CNA'S NEEDED**  
for full-time & part time hours. Friendly, caring environment. Sr. Citizens Nursing Home, Winters, Tx. Contact Sarah Lee RN at 754-4566.

**NOW HIRING**  
Production Workers, Bookkeepers, Dental Assistant, Computer Tech, Desktop Administrator, Nanny, Receptionists, Welders, Machine Operators, Mill Workers, CNA's & LVN's. For more info (915) 365-9133, or apply @ Demand Staff, 804 Hutchings, Ballinger, TX 76821.

**SR. CITIZENS NURSING HOME**  
in Winters now hiring for full-time LVN. Nursing Home & Medicare experience preferred. Competitive Salary. Contact Sarah Lee RN at 754-4566.

**Hiring CNA's**  
All shifts, full time, part time and PRN. \$7.30/hour.  
Contact Rhonda or Larry  
**Runnels County Rehabilitation and Nursing Center**  
1800 N. Broadway.  
Ballinger, Texas  
**915-365-2538**

**PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT**  
needed in Robert Lee to assist aged and disabled individuals in their homes. Tasks include assistance with personal care, light housekeeping, heavy lifting, and other tasks as assigned. Hours vary according to client served. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and free of any criminal history charges. Contact Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital Home Health at (915) 235-1701 (ext. 413) or fax resume to (915) 235-1783.

**ATTENTION: WORK FROM HOME!**  
\$500 - \$2,500/mo. PT  
\$3,000 - \$7,000 mo. FT  
Free Booklet.  
www.callme4info.com.  
(800) 742-4710

**HELP WANTED**  
**Cook's Helper** - full time. Experience preferred but not required. Will train.  
**Janitor** needed - full time. Will train. Apply in person to Bronte Health & Rehab Center, 900 S. State St., Bronte, TX 76933 or call 915/473-3621 FMI. EOE.

**GARAGE SALES**

**GARAGE SALE**  
Sat. 7:00 am - ?. 809 Vickie, Robert Lee. Microwave, furniture.

**MOVING SALE**  
Saturday, March 31. 8:00 am - 2:00 pm. 813 Childress St., Robert Lee. Desk, dresser, lots more.

**CARD OF THANKS**

**DURING A TIME**  
like this we realize how much our community and friends really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. Thanks for all the prayers, calls, visits, cards, food and flowers. A special thanks to Hospice and Rev. Jim Reeves.  
The family of Joydell Deen

**OUR THANKS**  
The citizens of Coke County and the East Coke County Emergency Medical Service would like to sincerely thank Fran Sonnenberg for her many gracious years of volunteer service.

Fran has resigned from the office of treasurer with the ECCEMS after 11 years of service.

Fran was certified as an Emergency Care Attendant in 1989. She was inducted as a member of the ambulance service and as treasurer at that time. For 4 years she also served Bronte ambulance service as an ECA in addition to serving as treasurer.

While in office as treasurer, Fran gave many selfless hours keeping track of the service's CD's, memorials and donations; sending memorial cards and thank you cards for donations, balancing and preparing monthly and annual financial statements, paying and receiving invoices, tracking run sheets and filing on insurance and medicare claims for patients who had needed the ambulance service.

Fran's exemplary citizenship is truly appreciated by all of us. We were blessed to be on the receiving end of her generosity.

Thank you, Fran, you will be missed.

\*\*\*  
**William Howard Taft is the only man ever to have been both president of the United States and Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.**

## B & M Auto & Truck Repair Ray Boyle & Ken McIntyre

Truck owners and large trucking companies in this area know that well-maintained trucks are essential so that delays due to repair stops are not a problem. The people at B & M Auto & Truck Repair, located in San Angelo at 3201 North Chadbourne Street, phone 486-9772, realize that your truck is one of the most important and expensive tools you own. Modern trucks are built to last, but that doesn't mean that periodic servicing should be forgotten or ignored.

B & M Auto & Truck Repair specializes in preventive maintenance and all types of repairs and service for truck owners. Their experienced mechanics can keep your investment in top running condition and can advise you on important maintenance procedures that will help prevent costly breakdowns. From scheduled maintenance and third-member repair to transmissions and diesel engine overhauls, they do it all. They believe in personal service, and they are fully insured for your protection.

For expert preventive maintenance and repair services, truck fleet owners can confidently depend on B & M Auto & Truck Repair. Their prompt, reliable work is your assurance of satisfaction enabling you to "keep on trucking."

## West Texas Rhino Linings

### Grand Opening • Powder-Coating Specialist

Many local manufacturers and consumers are enjoying the unique benefits that powder coating offers. Powder coating is a thin coat of "dry paint" sprayed on a metal surface, held in place by static electricity and oven cured. The powder coating experts in this area are West Texas Rhino Linings, located in San Angelo at 6305 U.S. Highway 277 South, phone 653-9988.

Powder coating is one of the most recent and exciting developments in coating technology. It has not only been found to provide excellent appearance and superior protection, but because it contains no VOC emissions, it is being used in more applications each day. West Texas Rhino Linings has powder-coated bicycle frames, luxury home entry gates, kitchen appliances, garden equipment and lawn furniture. It can also be used on auto parts for protective and decorative benefits, frames and chassis for motorcycles, race cars, street rods and antiques as well as bumpers, battery trays, wheels and engine parts such as valve covers. Powder coating also reduces air pollution and is not considered hazardous waste. It is truly the environmentally-friendly coating for the 21st century.

If you are looking for a clean, efficient way of restoring and protecting metal surfaces, call West Texas Rhino Linings at 653-9988 today. They will be happy to give you a free estimate and answer any question you may have about powder coating.

### Helwig receives prestigious honor

Robert Lee High School student athlete Jodee Helwig earned 1st Team Honorable Mention recognition as one of the top high school Christian student athletes in America. More than 8,400 student athletes nationwide were nominated from 20,000 high schools for this prestigious award and top honors were given in four categories; First and Second Team All-American and First and Second Team Honorable Mention. Athletes were selected for their academic accomplishments, athletic achievements, and Christian character to represent some of the brightest and most accomplished high school student athletes in the nation.

The All-American program, now in its fifth year, was created to reward and encourage high school student athletes who are impacting their schools, communities, and generation in a powerful way.

"We want to congratulate Jodee on being selected to represent her school, city, state, and country as one of the finest Christian student athletes in America," said Kent Susud, Athletes of Good News Executive Director.

"The mission of the High School Christian Student All-American Program is simple, yet powerful! Our mission is to encourage and reward Christian student athletes for their athletic accomplishments, academic achievements, and boldness to impact their generation through a life of Christian character," says Susud. "Our strategy, in part, is to develop positive relationships with high schools, reinforce the commitment of student athletes to excel with integrity, promote national exposure to qualifying athletes and schools through college scholarships, speaking opportunities, award recognition, and to challenge athletes and coaches to become greater leaders by serving others."

"Jodee is a student athlete that is truly making a difference and should be recognized not just because she makes good grades or be-

cause she is a star athlete but for a greater reason; because Jodee made a commitment to serve others and live a life of character and integrity based upon her personal relationship with Jesus Christ."

### GED deadline

It is never too late to get an education, but time is running out for people working on their GED. December 2001 has been set as the deadline for completing the current GED exam. People can currently take this 7 1/2 hour exam in five parts. However, all five parts must be completed before the December deadline or those sections will become invalid. This is creating anxiety for many students enrolled in Adult Basic Education programs.

This deadline has motivated more people to go ahead with their plans to earn their GED. The GED tests give many people the opportunity to earn a high school equivalent diploma, a credential recognized as a key to employment opportunities, advancement, further education, and financial rewards.

Anyone interested in obtaining their GEDs can receive free preparation assistance through the classes held at Robert Lee ISD. For more information you may call the school at 453-4555 or Gayle Bolding at 453-2508.

### RL Elementary creates museum

A Living Museum will be created March 29, Thursday, at Robert Lee Elementary. Mrs. Roberts, 4th and 5th grade Social Studies classes will present characters from TEXAS history and TEXANS who made it BIG. The Living Museum will begin 5:30 and end at 7:30. The public is encouraged to attend.

In conjunction with the Living Museum, the Book Fair will be in progress.

## RATLIFF DOZER SERVICE



Robert Lee, Texas  
(915) 453-2407 • Toll Free 877-383-8682

### Roads Built

Grubbing & Raking Large or Small Acreage  
Stock Tanks Built & Cleaned

2 D-8 Dozers with Root Plows & Rakes

## Introducing ... Advanced Aesthetics Microderm Abrasion



Nan's Beauty Shop owner Nancy Pope has just returned from training in Atlanta, Georgia, with something new for the salon - Advanced Aesthetics Microderm Abrasion. The Power Peel is for aging & sun damaged skin, acne scarring & acne, altered pigmentation, stretch marks, fine lines & enlarged or clogged pores - the gentle way to a younger complexion.

Call Nancy at 728-4211 for a consultation.

References available.

## Nan's Beauty Salon

248 Walnut

Colorado City

# FINANCIAL FOCUS

With Jim Woodruff of Edward Jones

### IRAs - You have a choice

Many people think of an IRA as a specific type of investment, like a CD or bond, but it is really an account that allows the investments within it to grow tax-deferred. You can put a variety of investments in your IRA. Which investments are best for you depends on your time horizon (How long until you retire?), your risk tolerance (Can you tolerate movements in the stock market?) and your retirement goals (How much money will you need?). Here are a few of your IRA investment choices:

#### CD IRA

People for whom safety is an overriding concern may opt to invest their retirement funds in FDIC-insured certificates of deposit (CDs). When you invest in a CD, your money earns interest at a specified rate, which will generally increase with the length of CD maturity. Two disadvantages of a CD IRA are that you own only one investment type, and your rate of return may be significantly lower than what some other IRA investment options offered.

#### Mutual Fund IRA

IRAs comprised of mutual funds may be a good choice for investors who want more variety in the IRAs and more growth opportunities than CDs. Mutual funds offer a mix of stocks or bonds, or a combination of the two, that are professionally managed by

the fund company's money managers. Mutual funds comprised of bonds offer a more predictable rate of return, while mutual funds comprised of stocks offer more growth potential.

#### Annuity IRA

It may seem strange to buy a tax-deferred investment to hold in a tax-deferred account, but annuities offer two features that are not available on other investments, either inside or outside an IRA: 1. The possibility of income payments you cannot outlive, and 2. A guaranteed death benefit. A lifetime payment is valuable if you're concerned about having enough income for a long life, and a guaranteed death benefit is important if you are concerned about what might happen if you died prematurely.

#### Self-directed IRA

A self-directed IRA offers the most flexibility of all the types of IRAs. Any number of investments such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs and annuities can be used in a self-directed IRA. This investment flexibility also allows you to better diversify your IRA to maximize your return potential and minimize your risk.

All of these investment choices are available in either a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA. Your investment representative can help you select the IRA that's best suited for your retirement needs.

## JIMMY'S AUTOMOTIVE & TIRE SHOP

121 W. 10th

Robert Lee, Texas

(Across from Bell's Auto Body Shop)

New & Used Tires • Flats • Interstate Batteries  
Oil & Filter Change & Lube • Wash & Wax

For Appointment, Call: 453-9933 • 473-8650

Jimmy & Staci Womack



### "Don't squat with your spurs on."

Eugene Shipp worked maintenance for an electric coop for twenty-eight years. During an ice storm in '78, he worked thirty-eight hours straight, fixing downed lines and restoring power. He retired two years ago to spend more time on his ranch, working his own hours. He uses coop power, he knows he can count on it.

Eugene belongs to a Smart Choice cooperative. What's "Smart Choice?" We're a coalition of West Texas coops committed to making the right decision on electric deregulation.

The goal of deregulation is to bring the benefits of retail competition to the power industry. But so far, in states such as California and Pennsylvania, reality has fallen short of the promise, often bringing higher rates and even outages. The Legislature gives coops the opportunity to decide whether they will opt in or out of deregulation. We intend to take advantage of that to be sure deregulation is right for our owner-members.

Texas electric cooperatives have been providing power to Texans since 1937. As coops, we are non-profit and member-owned. Watch for other articles to learn more about us and how we're responding to the challenge and opportunity of electric deregulation.



the smart choice.

Your Smart Choice Electric Cooperatives.

Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Coleman County Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Comanche Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Concho Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Swisher Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.smartchoicecoops.com

**PA relocates to devote more time to her patients**

(Editor's Note): The following article concerning the Robert Lee Shamrock Clinic and PA Kathy Enright originally appeared in the Center Times.

As a physician assistant for a private clinic, Kathy Enright said she was often frustrated by a system that valued patient quotas over a patient's quality of care. So she decided to relocate to a small rural community where she could devote more time to her patients.

But Enright and others like her are finding it difficult to work in rural health clinics because a lack of profitability is forcing many clinics to close. There are also fewer physician assistants to meet the increasing healthcare demands of Texas.

In a study published in *Texas Medicine*, researchers at Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School found that the current physician-assistant work force will not adequately meet the increasing health-care needs of Texas during the next five years, and they identified several factors that will contribute to the shortage.

Physician assistants, or PAs, have been an integral part of the healthcare system since 1967. Physician assistants practice in clinical association with physicians, who serve as their supervisors and employers.

Dr. Gene Jones, chairman of physician assistant studies at the allied health school and co-author of the paper, said decreasing enrollment rates for physician assistant programs is limiting the number of practicing PAs. Sixty percent of the health-care work force is made up of PAs and other allied health professionals.

"A number of the mature PA programs are holding the line on admissions and, in some cases, slightly reducing their admissions based on available resources," said Jones, who is chairman of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs Research Institute and past president of the group. "To accommodate the shortfalls of the state, the enrollment rate for physician assistant programs should be increasing instead of holding steady."

Dr. Roderick Hooker, chief of the Division of Health Services Research at the allied health school, said these findings are not limited to PAs, but mirror all other health professions including physicians and nurses.

The increasing population in Texas and closure rates for rural health clinics are among the reasons that access to health care is decreasing in parts of the state. Further

compounding the problem, Texas has the highest rate of uninsured residents in the country.

Although access barriers to health care in Texas remain a substantial public-health issue, PAs have helped reduce these barriers, especially in rural communities, said Hooker, who co-wrote and gathered data for the study.

Enright, who practices in Robert Lee, a West Texas community of 1,200, said a majority of her patients are older adults with multiple health problems and have difficulty traveling to the nearest doctor's office.

"Without our clinic, people would have to drive 30 miles to be seen by a physician," Enright said.

When Enright relocated to Robert Lee last year, she wanted to get back to her roots.

"I wanted to practice medicine the way I was taught in school," said Enright, a '94 alumna of the physician assistant studies program at UT Southwestern. "When I worked in a private clinic, time was a luxury. I wanted the freedom to take thorough medical histories and truly listen to what the patient has to say."

Texas has extraordinarily high rural needs. More than 20 percent of Texans live in nonurban areas, which account for 82 percent of Texas land.

"These are very important social issues, especially for legislators who have to determine where scarce dollars should be allocated," said Hooker, who has written more than 50 scholarly papers on the health work force and is the co-author of the widely used book *Physician Assistants in American Medicine*.

Jones said conducting the study opened his eyes to the health-care needs of Texas and how to tailor the physician assistant studies program at UT Southwestern to meet

those needs.

He said UT Southwestern's physician assistant studies program will convert to a master's level curriculum this spring. UT Southwestern is the third school in Texas - and the first school within the UT System - to be authorized to award a master's degree in physician assistant studies from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

"Enrollment into our PA program is highly competitive. Every year, our office must review 200 applications to fill 36 openings," Jones said. "Our enrollment is limited by the number of qualified training sites. We can't dilute a student's clinical education and have them less prepared."

Jones said one of the primary focal points of the program is to expose students to populations that do not have adequate health-care services available and encourage students to seek employment in those setting when they graduate. All PA students are required to complete at least one clinical rotation in a rural setting.

**Lady Steers win track meet**

The Lady Steers entered the Eden track meet on the 24th and placed 1st with a team total of 116 points. The field events were canceled due to the weather. Robert Lee results are as follows:

- 3200 M - 1st - Rodriguez - 14:26.19
- 400 M relay - 4th - Matthews, Soliz, Wojtek, Wallace - 56.99
- 800 M - 1st - Simpson - 2:46.09; 2nd - Mills - 2:50.00
- 100 M hurdles - 2nd - Helwig - 17.89; 6th - Brothers - 18.93
- 100 M - 6th - Alexander - 14.94
- 800 M relay - 3rd - Matthews, Soliz, Lott, Wallace - 2:06.07
- 400 M - 4th - Mills - 71.75
- 300 M hurdles - 3rd - Brothers - 59.81; 4th - Lott - 60.52
- 200 M - 2nd - Simpson - 28.72; 4th - Matthews - 30.97



Kathy Enright (center) is flanked by two coworkers from the clinic in Robert Lee, where she practices as a physician assistant. Janie Munoz (left) is the office manager and Sheri Morgan is a nurse.

- 1600 M - 1st - Rodriguez - 6:57.01; 3rd - Alexander - 8:11.33
- 1600 M relay - 2nd - Helwig, Mills, Wallace, Simpson - 5:04.78

**Steers track results**

The Robert Lee Steers competed in the Eden Bulldog Relays last Saturday. The field events were canceled because of the bad weather. Results are as follows:

- 300 M hurdles - 2nd - Clifton Bohannon
- 110 M hurdles - 3rd - Anson Lott; 4th - Clifton Bohannon
- 800 M run - 4th - J.J. Reyes
- 200 M dash - 5th - Anson Lott
- 3200 M run - 5th - Travis Taylor
- 1600 M run - 5th - Travis Taylor
- 400 M relay - 4th - Brown, Ballew, Clendennen, Lott
- 1600 M relay - 4th - Brown, Ballew, Reyes, Eubanks

**Steer band to compete in UIL**

The Robert Lee Steer band will compete in U.I.L. on April 3, at Sweetwater. The 45 member band has worked very hard preparing three new pieces of music for concert

contest and has worked very hard for sightreading contest. This will be Mr. Ratliff's last time to direct the Steer band in U.I.L. competition as he is retiring. The band will eat at Bucks in Sweetwater at 11:00 am and return to school around 1:30 to 2:00 pm. The band will leave at 6:45 am.

**Boy Scouts to sponsor auction**

The Concho Valley Council of Boy Scouts of America is conducting its annual auction from 10 am to 2 pm, March 31, 2001 at Western Iron Works/Gatherings, 6th Street and Volney, San Angelo.

All proceeds from the auction will allow the council to continue offering a quality program to over 7,000 youth served in the 24 county service area. Scouting serves youth ages 7-21 with character building and citizenship development activities.

Anyone wishing to donate items may contact the Boy Scout Office at 655-7101 or take items to Western IronWorks during the day.

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