BSERVER/ NTERPRISE

Serving Coke County



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

Vol. 114, No. 49

Friday, July 5, 2002

Annual BHRC Fireworks Display slated for July 4

The Bronte Health and Rehab Center will be having a fireworks display, sponsored by the Auxiliary, on Thursday, July 4th. Ice Cream serving will begin at 7 pm with a baked goods auction following. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the activity department. The public is welcome to attend any and all of the events. For more information contact Mary Beth Drennan at

County 4-H camp scheduled

County 4-H camp will be held at Buffalo Gap, July 18 & 19, 2002. Cost of county camp will be \$20.00. All 4-H members are eligible to attend. Please contact the Extension office at 453-2461 by July 1, 2002, to register.

Please don't burn

by Jackie Walker, Judge Once again we come to you asking for your help in preventing fires. I'm sure you have been reading about the forest fires and the damages resulting from these fires. Remember, Coke County is covered by Volunteer Fire Services. Help the men have a good Holiday as well as you can. Don't take any chances with fire works and camp fires. They get out of hand before you know it.

473-3621 or Leslie Rolls, President of the Auxiliary at 473-2391. Don't forget to bring your lawn chair!

Fireworks banned in Robert Lee

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

Fireworks prohibited inside Bronte

Bronte residents are reminded that the use of fireworks within the city limits is prohibited by city ordinance.

Any person or persons who violate this Ordinance shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$500.00.

For more information regarding the City's Fireworks Ordinance, contact the City Hall at 473-3501.

City Halls to close

Bronte City Hall and Robert Lee City Hall will be closed on Thursday, July 4th, in observance of Independence Day.



Bobby Roberts, Worshipful Master of Hayrick Lodge No. 696 A.F. & A.M. presents the Community Builder Award to Wilson Bryan at the May 31, 2002 surprise presentation held at the Masonic Lodge Hall in Robert Lee.



A group sits under a tarp to escape the hot sun while listening to one of the many speakers at Fort Chadbourne Days.

Blood drive slated for Wackenhut

United Blood Services will be at Wackenhut Correctional Facility on Friday, July 5th from 9:30 am until 12:20 pm. Call George Cormack at 473-5700 for an appointment.

"I know everyone is making plans for the 4th," said Johnna Pevey, Community Relations Representative. "Our plans and hopes are to have enough blood for the long weekend. Please make our hopes a reality."

Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh more than 110 pounds and be in good health. You will need proof of identification and know the names of any medication you may have taken in the past 30 days. UBS is the area's notfor-profit provider. In order to supply the 12 area hospitals, UBS must collect more than 300 units each week. Blood products have a shelf life of 5 to 42 days. Your help is needed. If you would like to make an appointment to give blood, please call the local Bronte number or 653-1307. Please try to make an appointment. It will help get you in and out in a timely manner.

Relay for Life successful despite wet conditions

Rain didn't dampen the spirits at this year's Relay for Life on June 7 and 8. Participants walked in the rain from

the opening at 6:00 until about 9:30 Friday night for the fight against cancer. The first lap is for cancer survivors only. Those survivors from Robert Lee participating were Jack Brewer, Kegan Bell, Donna Green, Frank Sparks, Bud Roberts, Pam Messer, Jana Smith, Jeanette Jacobs and Dee Anna Harmon.

The luminaria ceremony which was scheduled for 10 pm was still held but with a few alterations. Many of the luminaries that were already set out were ruined in the downpour that started about 3:00 pm, but the ceremony was still very emotional. All of the walkers at 10 pm carried the lighted candles with the lights in the stadium turned out. It was quite a sight to see the glowing candles moving around the track! Also during the luminaria ceremony, some special songs were performed and there was a man that played the bagpipes.

On Saturday morning, Will Howard did a karate demonstration in memory of his dad, Bill Howard, who died of cancer in 1999.

In the closing ceremonies on Saturday just before noon, the two Robert Lee teams won the "Top Fundraising Award" in the Friends and Family category. Together, both teams raised over \$6,100. The total amount raised for the entire Relay was over \$111,000. This money will be used for research, education and to provide services locally in this area.

The two Robert Lee teams included Cindy Bessent, Dee

Anna Harmon, Cynthia Dillard, Denise Roberts, Valerie Howard, Cathy Waltz, Debbie McCabe, Dianne Simpson, Linda Eaton, JoNell Blair, Susan Owens, Jana Smith, Pat Taft, Douglas Roberts, Zena Williamson, Debbie Wilkes, Pam Millican, Kellye Duncan, Sheri Millican, Donna Watkins, Pam Messer, Laura Bennett, Martha Patterson, Donna Waldrop, Nettie Autrey, Karla Reed, Beverly Bell, Jeannette Jacobs, Clay Lewis, Donia Robles and Juan Robles.

New Driver License office days told

Beginning July 1, 2002, the new schedule for driver license service will be from 9 am until 12 noon and from 1 pm until 4 pm the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.

Gospel singing Sunday

The regular monthly community gospel singing will be held Sunday, July 7, 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 together.



THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Published Weekly Except Christmas (915) 453-2433 707 Austin

(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 Morgan McCutchen

Melinda McCutchen, Editor Pat Taft Wayne McCutchen

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

Obituaries

Fancher

Truman Clay Fancher, beloved husband and father, of two daughters and two wonderful granddaughters, left this world on Tuesday June 18, 2002. Truman was born in May 1934 at his parent's home in Portales, New Mexico and is survived by his mother, wife, daughters, sonin-law and granddaughters. Truman Fancher served our country in the U.S. Army and worked as a Computer Engineer throughout his life. He loved his family, his country, and the outdoors, in particular gardening and fishing. Truman also was an avid reader.

Service was held at 3:00 pm on Saturday, June 22, 2002 at Ft. Chadbourne Cemetery. Visitation was at Shaffer Funeral Home in Bronte on Friday evening June 21st and Saturday morning prior to the service.

will be forever He missed, and those who knew and loved him will always treasure his memory. We love you Truman, we love you Dad and we love you Paw-Paw.

Timmons

Willis W. "Cotton" Timmons, 79, of Robert Lee went to be with the Lord on Sunday, June 30, 2002.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 am Tuesday, July 2, 2002, at the Robert Lee Baptist Church. Burial followed at 1:00 pm at Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens in San Angelo. Services were under direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

Cotton was born in Stanton, Texas on April 9, 1923, to C.E. "Cap" Timmons and Georgia Holloway Timmons.

At the age of 11, Cotton began his work experience on a ranch around Stanton and Big Spring. In 1944, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the 8th Army Air Corp, in England. He flew 30 combat missions out of Germany as a Tail Gunner in a B24. He received the Oak Leaf Cluster and Distinguished Flying Cross, these medals were personally awarded to him by General Hap Arnold. Cotton was a Life Time member of the VFW. During his military career he always wore his cowboy boots (a true Texan). After his service career, he worked in the oil fields of West Texas until 1989

Cotton is preceded in death

by his parents and Ruth McKinley Timmons. Also preceding him were sisters, Lenora and Vina; brothers, Claude and Noble; and a grandson, Martin Joe Mc-

Cotton is survived by his wife, Cleta Timmons; his children, Bill Timmons, Ricky Timmons, and Tina McNeely; step children, Judy Smith and Tommy Bryant; nineteen grandchildren; ten great grandchildren; sisters, Fran Cooper and Ruth Gunning; and several nieces and

A special thanks to the Robert Lee Care Center and EMS of Robert Lee, Texas.

The family request that memorials be made to the Robert Lee Care Center.

49-1tc

Death Notices

Blanchard

Pam Sanderson Blanchard, 73, of Sweetwater, died Monday, June 24, 2002, in a local hospital. Service was held at 2 pm Thursday, June 27, at First United Methodist Church with burial in Blackwell Cemetery. Arrangements were by McCoy Funeral Home.

Survivors include son. Brent Blanchard of Sweetwater; daughter, Jana Bentle of Sweetwater; sister, Ernestine Blanchard of Snyder; and brother, Bobby James Sanderson of Blackwell.

Robertson

Samuel Bradley Robertson, 77, of Bronte died Tuesday, June 25, 2002, at his residence. Memorial service was conducted at 2 pm Friday, June 28, at Central Baptist Church. Arrangements were by Shaffer Funeral Home.

Survivors include his wife, Lillie Robertson of Oak Creek Lake: daughters, JoLinda Moore and Patricia Hazen of Phoenix; sons, Randel Robertson of Oak Creek Lake, Larry Robertson of Madisonville, KY., and Brad Robertson of Phoenix; and sisters, Wanda Andrako of Tulsa, OK, and Mutt Autry of Morton.

Northam

Patsy Northam, 61, of Blackwell died Tuesday, June 25, 2002 at a San Angelo hospital. Graveside service was held at 2:00 pm Thursday, June 27, 2002, at Blackwell Cemetery. Arrangements were by Shaffer Funeral Home.

She is survived by her husband, Benny Northam; eight sons, Bobby Northam, James Northam, Terry Northam, James Marshall, Thomas Marshall, Mac Marshall, Charles Marshall, and B.J. Marshall; three daughters, Debby Robling, Jean Hardy, and Sue O'-Donnell; three brothers, Eddie Joe Miles, Jerry Don Miles, and Johnny Bill Miles; one sister, Billie Jack Prysock; two step-sisters, Wanda and Jean; twenty-two grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

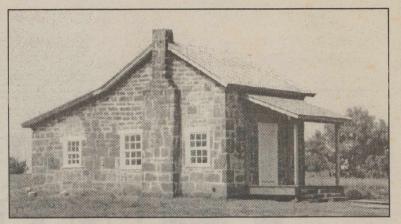
Veterans Memorial update discussed

The Coke County Veterans Memorial Committee wished to update the public on the current status of committee Concerning the actions. memorial site itself, two loads of white caliche have been delivered to spread around the site, two memorial benches are being delivered soon, action has been taken to purchase a piece of military equipment to be placed on the site ad a new engraving is being planned. There have been several names submitted, but a few more are needed before the engraver will do the task. The committee is gratified with the success of the memorial project, but wants to make every effort to get the names of all the eligible veterans engraved on the memorial stone.

If you have a family member or friend you want to add, you can contact the committee at 324 B. West Main in Bronte 76933, or call 473-2851 or 473-3761. A collector's pin will be issued for each name inscribed on the memorial. Landscaping has had to be put off because of the drought.

Also on the agenda was the possible naming of Texas Highway 158, from the city limits of Bronte to the city Limits of Robert Lee, to the Coke County Veterans Memorial Highway. The committee has petitioned the county commissioners to consider this at

123 W. Main



After all the hard work of restoring the Fort Buildings, this is the finished Officers' Quarters at Fort Chadbourne.

their next meeting.

The committee would like to have a celebration at the memorial on Veterans' Day if the new names have been engraved by then. Let's have a red, white and blue celebra-

Programs for those retiring soon set July 16

Jim Woodruff, the Edward Jones investment representative in Ballinger, will host a free program on Tuesday, July 16 at 5:30 pm for individuals planning to retire within the next few years.

Guests will learn ways to help create a steady retirement income check as well as how to keep medical bills from eating away their savings. Edward Jones experts will also explore the implications of working part-time in retire-

"We all want our retirement to be a rewarding experience," said Woodruff. "This program will provide tips for those getting ready to begin their retirement."

This live, interactive broadcast is presented at Edward Jones branch offices nationwide via the firm's private satellite network.

The largest firm in the nation in terms of branch offices, Edward Jones currently has more than 7,900 offices in the U.S. and, through its affiliates, in Canada and the United Kingdom. Plans call for expansion to 10,000 offices by

For more information on the July 16 program or to reserve your seat, contact Jim

473-6791

Woodruff at 365-2505. If you are unable to attend at the above time, additional viewing opportunities are available.

Bruckner to autograph books

Former Robert Lee High graduate is coming back to visit and sign her book of grandmother stories.

Jane Austin Bruckner will be at the Coke County Library on Friday, July 12th, 10 - 12 am.

All proceeds from the book will benefit the Coke County Historical Society.



Churches of Robert Lee

Invite You to Worship

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. Steve Rowe, 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

11 am & 6 pm, Worship hside Church of Christ PO Box 698 •8th & Houston (915) 453-2176 Frank J. Daniels, Preacher

Sun. 10 am, Sunday School

Sun. 10 am, Sunday School 11 am & 6 pm, Worship Wed. 7 pm, Worship PO Box 493 •22 W. 11th

Robert Lee Baptist Church (915) 453-2724

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 • 6th & Houston (915) 453-2208 Rev. Erma Johnson, Pastor Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School 10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting

S.O.A.R. CA

Bronte

GLENN-BIVINS INSURANCE

See us for your auto insurance.

Summer Outreach And Recreation

Sponsored by the

Mesquite Country Council On Alcohol & Drug Abuse

LOCATION: Robert Lee Rec Hall DATE: July 15-19, 2002 TIME: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.* * Note - time change from 9 am to 8 am AGES: 1st grade - 6th grade

Cost is free. Lunch and snacks provided.

Lessons, games, crafts, activities.

For more information or registration information, call 453-4645.

McDaniel - Davis exchange vows

Alicia Lynn McDaniel and Copie Davis were married June 8, 2002 at the First Baptist Church in Longview with the Reverend Dewayne Beaty officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Mc-Daniel, Jr. of Longview. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Garland Davis of Robert Lee.

Maid of Honor was Vanessa Lavender of Austin. Bridesmaids were Angie Bowman, Janice Gray, and Darla Poland, all of Austin; Courtney Davis of Medina, Emily Davis of Riesel, and Whitney Saulters of Waco. Flower girl was Cami Davis of Medina.

Best man was Joel Herring of Marble Falls. Groomsmen were Gary Davis of Denver City, Glenn Davis of Medina, Brett Lillmars, Marshall Lott, Jonathan Luce and Jody Sheldon, all of Austin. Curtis Davis of Medina was his Grandmother's Attendent.

The bride is a 1994 graduate of Longview High School. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish from the University of Texas at Austin and is employed by DMG Marketing in Austin.

The bridegroom is a 1989 graduate of Ozona High School. He received a bachelor of arts in Communications from Angelo State University and is employed by Netbotz Software in Austin.

After a brief wedding trip to Galveston, the couple is at home in Austin.

Edward Jones representative wins award

Jim Woodruff of the financial-services firm Edward Jones recently won the firm's exclusive Century Award for outstanding performance during 2001.

John Bachmann, the firm's managing partner, calls Woodruff a leader in the firm and an example of what a dedicated Edward Jones investment representative can achieve. He was one of only 168 of the firm's more than 8,500 brokers to receive the award.

"Jim Woodruff has demonstrated unyielding dedication and enthusiasm for his business," Bachmann said. "He has reached a benchmark in his career that deserves recognition, and the Century Award provides that recognition. I am proud to call Jim Woodruff an Edward Jones investment representative."

Woodruff said he is honored to receive the award. "I am one of those fortunate people who gets to make a living doing something I truly enjoy," Woodruff said. "This industry is always challenging and sometimes difficult, but ! enjoy helping the people of Ballinger and Runnels County meet their financial goals. It is a pleasure to be recognized for my work."

Woodruff received the award at the firm's regional meeting in Austin.

Edward Jones, the only major financial-services firm advising individual investors exclusively, traces its roots to 1871 and currently serves more than 5 million clients.



Mr. and Mrs. Copie Davis

The firm offers its clients a variety of investments including certificates of deposit, taxable and non-taxable bonds, stocks and mutual funds.

The largest firm in the nation in terms of branch offices, Edward Jones currently has more than 8,300 offices in the United States and through its affiliates, in Canada and the United Kingdom.

Artists invited to exhibit in Street Affair

The city of Robert Lee is inviting artists to exhibit during the annual Street Affair to be held Saturday, October 5,

The juried show will consist of paintings, sculpture and photography. The center of the exhibit will be those works most representative of Coke

County; the country, the animals, the weather, the people, the landmarks, etc. are considered to be subjects for this special exhibit. Two works can be considered from each entrant.

A grand prize cash award will be given at the preview reception on Friday, October 2, 2002, from 7:00 pm to 9:00

Photographs or slides of entries are due August 28th-30th and should be mailed to the Coke County Library, P.O. Box 637, Robert Lee, Texas 76945. A stamped selfaddressed envelope should accompany submissions and the artist's name and address should appear on each slide or photo.

🕹 Bronte Health and Rehab Center 🗸 * Invites The Public To Attend Our *

July 4th Celebration

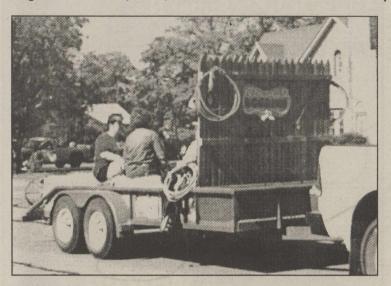
900 South State Street 7pm

Sponsored by BHRC Auxiliary

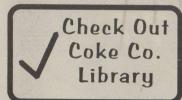
Ice Cream, Bake Auction and Fireworks!!

Bring Your Lawn Chairs and Join In The Fun. Auction benefits the Activity Department of BHRC.





The Robbins Family sits aboard their Westernthemed float at the 2002 Fort Chadbourne Days 150th Anniversary Parade.



The winner of the Friday drawing at the Coke County Library summer reading program was Ivan Landeros. Ivan won an art book on modeling clay and a box of clay. There are three more opportunities to win before the Grand Prize drawing on July 31.

Each book returned entitles the reader to enter the drawing. Drawings are held on Fridays around 11:30. Every day there is a treat of the week to be enjoyed by summer readers. The Grand Prize is a Super Soaker water gun. All names from the drawings have gone into a box for the final drawing.

The library will have some new Texas history books thanks to a grant by the Tocker Foundation and the Texas A&M Press. The Tocker Foundation is dedicated to library improvement across the state and is located in Austin.

Library hours are Tuesdays, 8-12; Wednesdays, 8-4; Thursdays, 1-5; Fridays, 8-12. Books may be returned to the drop box outside the library and to the Main Street Market in Bronte.

Jane Austin Bruckner will sign copies of her book Grandmother Stories from the Heart of Texas on Friday, July 12, at the Coke County Library. Her books are on sale at the library. They will also be on sale at the book signing.

Mrs. Bruckner has designated a number of her books to be sold to support the Coke County Historical Commission and the Save the Jail project.

The collections of stories of pioneers of Coke County whose family members still reside in the area are a treasure for the future. Mrs. Bruckner deserves much appreciation for her interest in the area and for preserving the past for future generations.

Another project underway to support the renovation of the Old Jail is Mrs. Les (Bonita) Copeland's collections of stories and recollections of the jail by residing sheriffs' family members. She is interested in hearing from anyone with information and remembrances of the jail. Call her at her home to arrange a

sharing of information.

The jail collection was moved last week by the Coke County crews. Anyone who has attempted to pick up a glass display case knows what that moved entailed. The contents of the jail are now stored safely in a storage unit.

RLVFD news

by Marian Thompson Secretary

Firemen met with the City Council to explain the advantages of having radio controlled sirens. They met every Monday evening to work on the First Response truck, until they ran out of material. They are making progress.

Members of the fire department attended the Planning Meeting on Homeland Security on the 19th, along with WCCEMS, ECCEMS, Wackenhut personnel and Bronte fire department. The group toured the Robert Lee Care Center. They noted what areas could be dangerous to firemen. They took special notes of where the oxygen tanks are kept, where the fire hydrants are, and where to cut off gas and electric. Roger Alexander gave the tour.

Firemen met for the regular business meeting on July 1st. 10 members and one visitor were present. President Larry Martin presided.

Topics of discussion were the tour of the Care Center, the radio controlled sirens, the 2 mobile home fires on the 14th, on Meadow View Lane. They also discussed the grants we are applying for, for Hazmat and other safety equipment.

The 2 Cadets turned 18 and are now full firemen.

They noted that fireworks are banned in the City of Robert Lee and Bronte and are hoping everyone will use precautions if they light them.

The fire department needs

volunteers.

The department meets the first and third Monday of each month for business meetings. The second and fourth Monday is Fire Training to become a certified fireman, and/or work night.

Anyone interested in the department should stop by for a visit. Visitors are welcome at the fire station anytime a fireman is present. For more information, contact Fire Chief Rick Drennan, Fire Marshall Bud Thompson, or any fireman.

Cadets, ages 16 to 18 years, must have parental consent in order to receive fire and rescue training.

RLISD sets time for previewing fall schedules

Robert Lee High School and Robert Lee Junior High School students may come by the high school library to preview class schedules for the 2002-2003 school year.

Thursday, August 8, 2002 - 9:00 am - Freshmen (9th grade); 10:00 am - 8th grade; 11:00 am - 7th grade

Friday, August 9, 2002 - 9:00 am - Seniors (12th grade); 10:00 am - Juniors (11th grade); 11:00 am - Sophomores (10th grade)

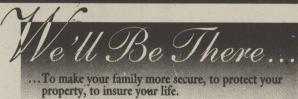
Students new to Robert Lee ISD may come for enrollment and schedule planning beginning at 9:30 am on Friday, August 2, 2002.

Students requesting a class schedule change should come to the RLHS office between 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm on Friday, August 9, 2002. Please call 453-4555 if you have questions concerning this information.

Each Robert Lee High School student who plans to drive a motor vehicle to school must obtain a parking permit when he/she picks up his/her class schedule. To obtain a parking permit for the 2002-2003 school year, students must understand that all laws regulating traffic on highways and streets apply to the operation of vehicles on school property (driver's license, insurance, speed limits, etc.)



in Bronte.



We'll be there. Whenever you need us, we're only a phone call away.

You're part of our family—we'll be there, for you.



GERMANIA INSURANCE COMPANIES
CARWILE INSURANCE
453-2522



Kristi Lee Mauldin and Russell Patrick Stalvey, both of Midland, will be married at 7:30 pm, August 24, 2002, at St. Ann's Catholic Church.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Don Mauldin of Norman, Oklahoma and Theresa Mauldin of Midland. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Mauldin and Frances Percifull, all of Robert Lee, and the late Frank Percifull.

The groom-elect is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Stalvey of Midland. He is the grandson of Jessie Stalvey of Henagar, Alabama, Jewell Suttles of Fort Payne, Alabama, and the late Lionel Suttles and Horton Stalvey.

THE CROSS AND THE CROWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Non-Denominational Worship

Sundays • 9:30 am

1st and Houston Streets Robert Lee

Everyone Welcome

Rev. Jim Reeves, Pastor

TVEY MOTOR COMPANY, INC.

Lowest "NEW & Used" Truck & Car Prices in West Texas! Check out these Huge Savings!

1999 Lincoln Town Car	\$	17,995
Signature Series, Silver, Cabrialet Top		
Low Mileage, One Owner		
2001 Lincoln Town Car	\$	25,995
Signature Series, Diamond White, Gray Leather, 24,000 Miles		
2001 Mercury Grand Marquis	\$	17,995
LS Series, Arizona Beige, Tan Leather		
22,000 Miles		
2002 Mercury Grand Marquis	\$	19,495
LS Series, Deep Emerald Green, Tan Leather 21,000 Miles		
1998 Ford Mustang	\$	7,995
Silver, 6 Cylinder, Auto, CD, PL, PW, PS Excellent Condition!		
2001 Ford Taurus SES	\$	12,995
White, 23,000 Miles, CD, PW, PL		
	Signature Series, Silver, Cabrialet Top Low Mileage, One Owner 2001 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series, Diamond White, Gray Leather, 24,000 Miles 2001 Mercury Grand Marquis LS Series, Arizona Beige, Tan Leather 22,000 Miles 2002 Mercury Grand Marquis LS Series, Deep Emerald Green, Tan Leather 21,000 Miles 1998 Ford Mustang Silver, 6 Cylinder, Auto, CD, PL, PW, PS Excellent Condition! 2001 Ford Taurus SES	Signature Series, Silver, Cabrialet Top Low Mileage, One Owner 2001 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series, Diamond White, Gray Leather, 24,000 Miles 2001 Mercury Grand Marquis LS Series, Arizona Beige, Tan Leather 22,000 Miles 2002 Mercury Grand Marquis LS Series, Deep Emerald Green, Tan Leather 21,000 Miles 1998 Ford Mustang Silver, 6 Cylinder, Auto, CD, PL, PW, PS Excellent Condition! 2001 Ford Taurus SES \$

Ask For: 453-4561

Randy Flanagan • Buck Duncan • Billy Wayne Roe



This golf cart was one of the many patriotic-themed ways of transportation during the 2002 Chadbourne Days 150th Anniversary Parade.

With Jim Woodruff of Edward Jones

Funding IRA with **Mutual Funds offers** benefits

Recent changes in the tax laws allow you to put in more money each year to either your Roth IRA or "traditional". IRA. But if you're going to take full advantage of these new, higher contribution limits, you need to select the right vehicles with which to fund your IRA. In picking these investments, consider mutual funds - they can offer significant you some advantages.

Before we look at the benefits of placing mutual funds within an IRA, let's look at the new contribution limits. Until 2002, you could invest up to \$2,000 a year in either a Roth or a traditional IRA. But now, thanks to the Tax Relief Act of 2001, you can put in up to \$3,000 a year to either IRA and this limit will eventually rise to \$5,000 per year, starting in 2008. Both types of IRA can help boost your retirement savings. Depending on your income level, your contributions to a traditional IRA may be taxdeductible - and, even if they're not, all your earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis. Both IRA contributions are not deductible, but all earnings grow totally tax-free, provided you've had your account at

least five years and you're at least 59 1/2 when you start making withdrawals.

Now, let's see how mutual funds can help you maximize your IRA:

Diversification - As you know, every mutual fund is made up of many individual assets. You can buy funds composed of stocks or bonds or government securities or other types of investments. Many funds contain a mixture of all these vehicles. Consequently, all mutual funds offer a vital element of diversification to your portfolio - and diversification is still the most important element of

long-term success. Professional

management - Mutual funds are run by professional portfolio managers, who make decisions on which securities their funds should buy and sell. So, when you put mutual funds in your IRA, you've got experienced money managers working for you. Of course, before you invest in any mutual funds, you'll want to make sure you understand managers' fund investment philosophy, and you should also explore their track record. (Keep in mind, though that a fund's past performance will guarantee future results. Also, be aware that the

investment return principal value of your mutual fund will fluctuate; your shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost.)

Potential tax advantages - During the past couple of years, many mutual fund owners have discovered, to their chagrin, that they owed capital gains taxes on funds that had actually declined in value. How was this possible? It's because fund managers, in the course of their regular trading, may sell individual holdings that appreciated over time. The fund will then make capital distributions gains shareholders like yourself and you'll be responsible for the accompanying capital gains taxes. But if you hold mutual funds within a traditional IRA, then these taxes will be deferred - and they'll be avoided entirely in a Roth IRA.

An IRA is a great way to create income for the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned. And the best way to get the most out of your IRA is to fund it with the right investments - so give mutual some strong consideration.

SACHS reunion slated for August

On August 30th and 31st, 2002, the San Angelo Central High School classes of 1967 and 1968 will host a reunion which will be open to all SACHS graduates from the class of 1965 through 1969.

For reunion details as they develop or for information concerning classmates of 1965-1969 who have moved or are missing and for those interested in attending, please see the reunion website or contact a reunion representative.

Reunion website, www.angelfire.com/tx/68centr al/60reunion.html. Contact for class of '67, Herschel Carmichael 658-7221; class of '68, Shireen Jackson 653-4638.

All classmates are invited to join in the planning stages for the reunion. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the San Angelo National Bank downstairs meeting room.

IN CELEBRATION OF

FREEDOM.

n 1776, the Second Continental Congress approved

one of the world's most important documents —

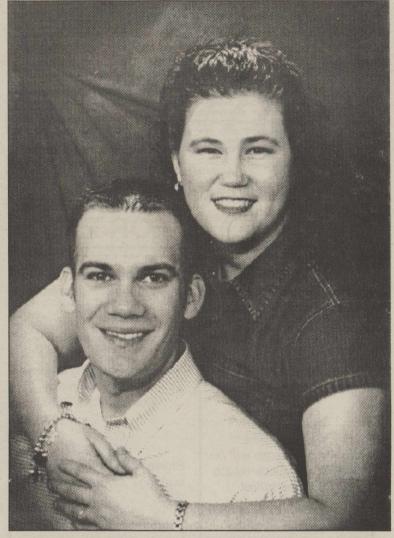
unmatched standard of freedom and equality that inspires the oppressed today, as it did then. Cindy

and I join with you in celebrating America's lasting

— Congressman Charlie & Cindy Stenholm

the Declaration of Independence. It set an

contribution to independence and freedom.



Jami Patterson and Wesley Clark

Patterson - Clark to exchange vows

Jami Nicole Patterson of Robert Lee and Wesley T. Clark of Lufkin will be married at Farley Street Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas on August 10, 2002 at 2:00 in the afternoon.

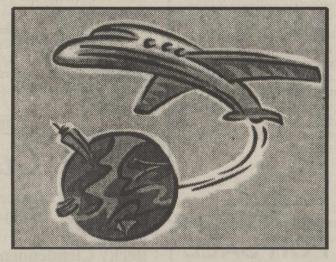
Parents of the engaged couple are Rev. & Mrs. Dale Patterson of Robert Lee and Mrs. Carolyn Clark of Lufkin, Texas and the late John Clark.

Jami is a 1999 graduate of Robert Lee High School. She has attended Jacksonville College in Jacksonville, Texas and will continue her education at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches in the fall.

Wes is a 1992 graduate of Lufkin High School. He attended Jacksonville College and is currently a student at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches.

Lemons contain more sugar than strawberries.

Vacation Time is Here!



Whether you're staying close to home... or going around the world, don't forget your Pulse ATM card from Robert Lee State Bank.

It's fast ... it's easy ... and it makes your money available 24 hours a day from thousands of locations.

Ask us for more details ... before you leave on vacation!





Robert Lee State Bank

621 Austin Street Robert Lee, Texas 915/453-2545

Member FDIC

Paid for by Stenholm for Congress Comm

PULSE



BUYIT! SELLIT! FIND IT!

FOR RENT

NICE! NEW! BRICK!

3 bedroom 2 1/2 baths

2 bedroom 2 baths

Now Available!

Call: 915-473-3105

for information or

915-473-9548

Santa Fe Crossing Duplexes

320 SE Railroad

Bronte, Texas 76933

FOR RENT

Bronte Mini Storage has storage

buildings for rent. Call 473-

MISCELLANEOUS

PROFESSIONAL

DOG GROOMING

450-8602 or 473-2515.

CARPORTS, METAL ROOFS,

concrete work, patios and drives

- Ray Sparks. (915) 378-7271,

KENNETHS CONSTRUCTION

Local roofing company

specializing in replacement &

repair of composition & metal

roofs. Free estimates. Phone

SPRINKLER SYSTEM

REPAIRS

ext. 237, or 378-4518.

453-2339 or 453-4788.

277-4177 or 473-2603.

9 am - 5 pm.

2221.

44-51tp

03-tnc

40-tnc

45-8tc

44-9tc

CLASSIFIED **ADVERTISING RATES** Rates when paid in advance.

First Insertion 20¢ Per Word

\$3 Minimum Subsequent Insertions 16¢ Per Word \$2.50 Minimum

Additional 50¢ charged for Blind Ads Legal Notices: 25¢ Per Word

A service charge will be added to all ads which must be billed.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE Tuesdays at 5 pm

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



FOR SALE

1724 Euel, Robert Lee. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Hot tub. Nice house, \$32,000. Make Offer. Call Becky 944-0021.

89 TOYOTA CRESSIDA Loaded - CD, sunroof, cold

A/C, everything works, \$2000. 453-2673.

FOR SALE

2 BR, 1 1/2 bath mobile home. Metal over roof extends into large carport. 817 Vicki St., Robert Lee. 453-2019.

> 46-4tp FOR SALE

8 acres in Edith. Terms. 915-784-7912.

48-5tp

Bronte

Brick home, 2 BR, 1 BA, 2 Living Areas or 3rd BR, CA/CH

4 BR, 2 BA, Fenced Backyard,

Oak Creek Lake, 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA, 1000+/- AC. Hunters cabin, Barn Enclosed garage with attached office, and Pens, rolling cedar hills, deep

Lake Spence Area, 2 BR, 1 BA, Ceramic tile, sundeck, guest quarters. Mountainous Area, 2 Water Wells, 2 BR, 2 BA, Brick home at the Choice Hunting

New Listing, 2 BR, 1 BA with Hunting upstairs garage apartment

3 BR, 2 BA, Brick, Storm and excellent hunting. 3 BR, 1 1/2 BA, Brick home, 2

lots, Carport, Storage building Priced to Sell, 4 BR, 2 bth, large divide den with second living area. CA/CH over 2100 sq. ft.

TREES TRIMMED

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

37-tnc PARKER PLUMBING

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

<u>34-tnc</u> **FOUND**

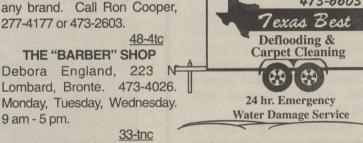
Year old (app.) big red hound dog. Silver chain collar. Found near Circle R, Lake Spence. Call & come get him. 453-2433, 453-4635.

49-2tp

CHUCKWAGON PRESENTS a new breakfast special, Tuesday-Friday, 7am - 11am. Just ask for the Double Shot, 2 eggs, 2 pancakes, 2 bacon or sausage. Only \$3. 453-9010.

49-1tp





Closed July 4th.

Concho Realty

Office 653-4535 • Home 453-4748 1-800-530-4242

Becky Clendennen

HILLCREST ... CUSTOM BRICK HOME! 3 Bedroom 2 Bath with 2 Living Areas Large Bonus Room Den or 4th Bedroom! Updates! Price Reduced!!

CUSTOM HOME ON 10 ACRES! 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Featuring Ash Cabinets in the Living Area & Kitchen! Many extras!!!

ASSUMABLE OR EQUITY BUY!!! Little or no Closing Costs! Almost new 4 Bedroom 2 Bath Home on Acreage!

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY \$19,500!!! 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath with CH/CA in Robert Lee!

3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Hardwood floors in Bronte!!

3 BEDROOM BRICK HOME \$40'S! Updated Berber Carpet! Double Carport!

3 BEDROOM HILLCREST ADDITION!!! Updated flooring, paint, kitchen! Furnished w/Appliances! Large Garage, Fenced Yard! 4 BEDROOM 2.5 BATH 2 FIREPLACES! Newly updated with Acreage and Large Barn! Price Reduced!!!

RENT TO OWN ...!!! 3 Bedroom Home Corner Lot with Pecan trees! Overlooking Golf Course!

EXCELLENT HUNTING PROPERTY

980 ACRES Rugged, Rolling Pastureland! 750+ ACRES, Between Water Valley & Robert Lee! 160+/- ACRES Rural water & wells. Hilltop view!

ASH-MILLICAN-CARSON REAL ESTATE

453-5144 OFFICE • 5 E 6TH STREET • ROBERT LEE, TX www.amcwesttexasranches.com Marshall Millican 473-0164 MOBILE • 453-2554 HOME 473-0437 MOBILE • 453-9002 HOME

4 BR, 2 BA Brick Home, over CA/CH, sunroom or 3rd BR, large 2100 sq. ft. in a good location

floating boat dock

Robert Lee

Basement

Other Listings Available

Lake Spence.

RED BARN CAFE

will be closed July 6-16th for vacation. Thank you!

Priced reduced, 2 BR, 1 bth,

Commercial building, Highway

837+/- AC. Rough Cedar Hills,

500+/- AC. Deep Creek, rolling

448+/- AC. electricity, good water

320+/- AC. highway and county

road access. Choice building site.

Convenient to Bronte. Seller will

110+/- Acres, waterwell, view of

Cedar Hills, Rural Water, Great

158 in Robert Lee, 5054 SF Display

Area, 1947 SF Garage, 1125 SF

Storage, 2 floor jacks

headers, excellent hunting

kitchen, single garage, over 1800 sf

HELP WANTED

IMMEDIATE OPENING

for full time LVN. 6A - 6 P. Contact Sarah Lee at Senior Citizens Nursing Home in Winters, 754-4566.

<u>50-tnc</u>

DIRECTOR/TEACHER WANTED

for the FUMC Pre-school in Sterling City 3 days/week. High School Diploma required. Applications may be picked up from Amanda Davis at the clinic in Sterling City through Tuesday, June 25. Questions? Call Amanda at 378-3300.

47-2tc **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF NURSING**

Prefer RN, must be experienced in MDS, PPS, and TILES. References required. Privately owned nursing home. Paid health and life insurance, paid holidays and vacation. Competitive salary (worth the drive). Send resume to or contact Larry Wellhausen at Runnels County Rehabilitation and Nursing Center 1800 N. Broadway, Ballinger, Texas 76821, 915-365-2538 or fax 915-365-2530.

42-tnc

Hiring LVNs & CNAs

All shifts, full time, part time and PRN.

Contact Rhonda or Larry **Runnels County** Rehabilitation and

Nursing Center 1800 N. Broadway

Ballinger, Texas 915-365-2538

NOTICES

WATER REPORT PUBLISHED

In accordance with U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA) regulations, a Consumer Confidence Report (Drinking Water Quality) has been prepared for distribution to customers of the City of Bronte Water System. The report was mailed the week of June 26. Copies are also available at the City Hall beginning June 26, 2002.

Political Calendar The Observer/Enterprise

has been authorized to make the following announcements for the political offices in Coke County. Each candidate or the campaign treasurer has paid for his or her announcement. All political advertising, announcements, and printing is cash in advance.

U. S. CONGRESSMAN 17TH DISTRICT Charles Stenholm **COKE COUNTY** JUDGE Roy Blair JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 1 D. Joan Davis JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 2 Jack G. Moore COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2

\$1000 REWARD

Bill Wheat

COMMISSIONER

PRECINCT 4

George Snapp

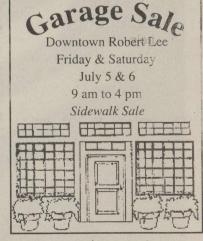
for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for setting fire to the Chadbourne Ranch June 30, 2002. person set fire to the ranch while discharging fireworks into the dry grass about 1:00 pm Sunday afternoon, 17 miles north of Bronte on Hwy 277. The small car or pickup headed north toward Abilene. If you have any information on this arson case, please contact the Runnels County Sheriff's Department at 915-365-2121 or the Chadbourne Ranch at 915-743-2555.

49-1tp CITY OF ROBERT LEE **PUBLISHES DRINKING** WATER QUALITY REPORT

accordance with Environmental Agency (EPA) Consumer regulations, a Confidence Report (Drinking Water Quality) has been prepared for distribution to customers of the Water System of the City of Robert Lee. The report was mailed on June 28, 2002. Copies are available at City Hall.

49-1tc

GARAGE SALES

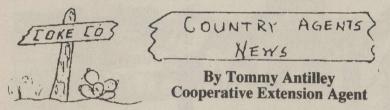


CITY OF BRONTE DRINKING

49-1tc



Robert Lee Elementary student Tanner Hanigan portrays Neil Armstrong at the 1700-2002 American Heroes Living Museum.



Beware of herbicide sale by phone

Several inquiries have been received concerning the effectiveness of herbicides that are being sold by telephone salespeople. These herbi-

RLVFD memorials and donations

Memorials **Farris White** J.C. & Jewell Wallace Flora Smith 64 Study Club, Charlotte & Wilbern Millican Lucille Bryan 64 Study Club, Charlotte &

Wilbern Millican Bessie Carpenter Tommy & JoAnn Clifton,

Coke County Water Supply Ross Torres, Sr. Joyce & Bobby Walker **Bobby Baker**

Faye Roe, Bobby & Joyce Walker, J.C. Wallace Jr., Mike & Fran Lomas, Zera & Don Fields, Troy Wimberly, Kenneth & Nancy Rasco Floy Sawyer

Beth Prather, J.C. Wallace Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Wilbern Millican, Kenneth & Nancy Rasco Don Sparks

Mr. & Mrs. Wilbern Millican **Debbie Conley**

Mike & Fran Lomas, Charlotte & Wilbern Millican, Kenneth & Nancy Rasco **Bill Gassiot**

Mike & Fran Lomas **Howard Shaffer** Mike & Fran Lomas Donations City water customers

Artists of the **American West**

"Artists of the American West comes to Fort Concho, July 4-August 16, 2002.

To help celebrate our nation's birthday on Thursday, July 4, Fort Concho National Historic Landmark will open the "Artists of the American West" exhibit in the fort's Quartermaster Galleries. An opening ceremony with the Fort Concho Living History Program, including a patriotic salute with the artillery, will open the display at 9:00 am.

Refreshments will be available and there is no charge for this day's program.

cides have a variety of tradenames that are not readily recognizable. The salesperson will contact farmers and ranchers by telephone and promote their product as a highly effective, broad spectrum herbicide for control of weeds and brush. They promise a quick and long lasting kill of the unwanted plants. These herbicides in the product vary, however it often contains 2,4-D and may contain bromacil, mecoprop (MCPP), dichlorprop (2.4-DP) and petroleum distillates. The percentage of the herbicides in the mixture vary greatly and often the petroleum distillates make up more than 96% of the mixture. The cost of the product is usually high.

Most of these products may kill unwanted plants, but they probably are killing them using a ground sterilant that kills everything. These products must have an EPA approved label. Thus, farmers and ranchers should be encouraged to ask the salesperson for a sample label of the active ingredients so you can see what is in it. Lots of times this will make them run backwards, because they don't want you to know what is in them.

Considering cost, effectiveness and percent of kill, you can kill the unwanted plants easier, cheaper and better with our standard herbicides that have been tested and proven. If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.



June Dairy Month

Did you know, for nearly sixty years, June has been designated as the time to celebrate America's great bounty of dairy products and to pay tribute to American's dairy farmers. christened June Dairy Month in 1939, the annual tribute has blossomed into a national affair. Just take some time to look at some of these interesting and somewhat historic dairy trivia.

*In 1884, the milk bottle was invented. Forty-eight years later, in 1932, plastic-coated paper milk cartons began appearing in the dairy case. Today, consumers choose from a wide variety of milk containers - even six packs for people on the go.

*We're a milk-producing Every state from Alaska to Hawaii from Maine to Florida, produces milk.

*Every day the nation's 9.3 million dairy cows produce the equivalent of nearly 50 million gallons of milk.

*Think that milk and cookies before bedtime is just for kids? Not true! Milk is a natural sleeping aid for all ages because it contains an amino acid protein that sends a signal to the brain to relax.

*The "Real Seal means you're a real dairy product and not an imitation.

*Americans love cheese! Per capita, they eat more than 26 pounds of cheese a year.

*For boys, consumption is highest at age 8, reaching 35 gallons a year. For girls, peak milk drinking is at age 6 when they consume 29 gallons a year.

*According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the largest ice cream sundae weighed just over 54,914 pounds.

Dairy products are essential to a healthy diet and skin! Milk, cream, yogurt and sour cream are all high in protein, calcium, and vitamins, which are natural skin care agents. Dairy products also contain

Mon-Fri

8 am-5:30 pm

Saturday

8 am-5 pm



Bronte Junior High Cheerleaders wave to the crowd at the 2002 Fort Chadbourne Days 150th Anniversary Parade.

alpha hydroxy acids that are being used to treat wrinkles.

Want a refreshing dairy treat? Here is a recipe for Strawberry Sherbet: 2 (28 ox.) bottles strawberry

soda 1 pkg. strawberry kool-aid cans sweetened

condensed milk 1/2 pt. chopped strawberries

Pour contents into freezer and stir. Proceed according freezer operating instructions. Makes 1 gallon.



Muscular Dystrophy Association www.mdausa.org

PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH RATES

Pursuant to Section 104.103 of the Texas Utilities Code, TXU Lone Star Pipeline (TXU LSP), a division of TXU Gas Company, hereby gives notice of intent to establish a supplemental rate identified as the "Integrity and Safety Assessment" (ISA) to track and recover costs of implementing its Pipeline Integrity Assessment and Management Plan and costs of system modification required by class location changes. The Pipeline Integrity Assessment and Management Plan is required by the Railroad Commission of Texas (Commission) pursuant to its Pipeline Safety Regulations, Rule § 8.101, while class location changes are necessary to comply with the Federal Minimum Pipeline Safety Regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 192, adopted by the Commission.

The proposed initial rate for the ISA is 2.05 cents per MMBtu, and is proposed to take effect as of July 1, 2002. The rate will be adjusted each year to reflect the change in costs necessitated by the pipeline safety regulations, with an opportunity for those costs to be reviewed by the Commission. The ISA will remain in effect for ten years from its initial effective date. The ISA constitutes a major change as that term is defined in Sec. 104.101, Texas Utilities Code. The proposed rate will increase the total revenues of TXU LSP by 3.7%, representing \$4.1 million of additional revenues.

The ISA will apply to the following classes of customers: 1) TXU LSP's customers with gas consuming equipment at an end-use location physically attached to TXU LSP's pipeline system or to the system of a local distribution company physically attached to TXU LSP's pipeline system; 2) entities selling gas to such customers; and 3) local distribution companies served by TXU LSP's pipeline system. The ISA will indirectly affect all residential and commercial customers served by such local distribution customers, including TXU Gas Distribution. At the proposed initial rate of 2.05 cents per MMBtu, the bill of an average residential customer (6 mcf of gas consumption per month) will increase approximately 12 cents per month.

A Statement of Intent to implement the ISA has been filed with the Commission in GUD Docket No. 9304 and is available for inspection at the Commission's office at 1701 North Congress, Austin, Texas, and at the offices of TXU LSP at 301 South Harwood, Dallas, Texas. Any affected person may file written comments or a protest concerning the proposed changes in the rates with the Docket Services Section of the Office of General Counsel, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, at any time on or before July 26, 2002. Any person or agency that has a justiciable or administratively cognizable interest in this proceeding who desires to be designated as a party may petition for leave to intervene and request to become a party to this proceeding. The deadline for intervention in this case shall be July 26, 2002.

WINK INSURANCE AGENCY



Home • Auto Life • Commercial

715 Austin 453-4551

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

Court pledge decision must not stand

by Richard J. Santos
The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that the
Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional. We should
have seen this coming. The
U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled that desecrating
the Flag of the United States
is "protected speech."

If the 9th Circuit's ruling is allowed to stand, millions of American schoolchildren will be denied the right to recite the Pledge. The denial will exist simply because the phrase "one nation under God" offends one atheist and two judges. According to the warped reasoning used by judges, the words amount to a government establishment of religion. Thus the Pledge is "unconstitutional." I can't help but wonder if these same judges pay their bills via unconstitutional means. After all, is not U.S. currency emblazoned with the words "In God We Trust"?

If the word "God" makes the Pledge unconstitutional, is the oath taken by witnesses in the courtrooms unconstitutional? What about the oaths of office taken by our public officials, including judges?

The 9th Circuit's decision clearly contradicts the very words uttered during the opening of each Supreme Court session: "God save the United States and this honorable Court." In addition, the Senate and the House employ chaplains and recite prayers daily. It is obvious that the members of these bodies have read the entire First Amendment, including the portion that states Congress shall pass no law "prohibiting the free exercise" of religion. The Courts ruled long ago that reciting the Pledge cannot be mandatory. Thus, only the rights of those belonging to the overwhelming majority of Americans are being denied.

As national commander of The American Legion, I promise that our organization will stand with the American people all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary to correct this grave injustice.

It is sad that while American troops are fighting a war against terrorism, our courts are fighting a war against the U.S. Flag. First the Supreme Court rules that flag desecration is protected speech. Now, the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional.

Opponents of the flag protection amendment have warned of a "slippery slope." They were right, but the slope is not slanting in the direction they predicted. The Senate's failure to protect Old Glory and the actions of the 9th Circuit demonstrate that when you trivialize the flag of the United States, you trivialize everything associated with it.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., has called the 9th Circuit's ruling "just nuts." I share his view. I call upon him to extend his outrage to the earlier Supreme Court ruling, permitting flag desecration. Let us not fight this battle halfway. Respect for the flag and respect for the

Pledge of Allegiance go hand-in-hand. If Sen. Daschle is serious about protecting the Pledge and the Flag, I ask him to schedule a vote and round up support for the flag-protection amendment immediately.

If you think that these court actions do not affect you, you are seriously mistaken.

In his dissent, 9th Circuit Judge Ferdinand F. Fernandez warns that even patriotic songs are endangered. "God Bless America' and 'America the Beautiful' will be gone for sure," Fernandez said. "And while use of the first and second stanzas of the 'Star-Spangled Banner' will still be permissible, we will be precluded from straying into the third."

Perhaps this outrage would have never occurred if the judges had only read the Declaration of Independence. With its references to "God," the "Creator" and "divine Providence," it is clear that our founding fathers did not intend for America to be an atheistic nation. Moreover, flag-protection laws existed for 200 years before the Supreme Court ruled them unconstitutional. It is time to return to the American people the right to protect both: the Pledge of Allegiance and the Flag of the United States. Richard J. Santos is national commander of the 2.8 millionmember American Legion, the nation's largest wartime veterans organization.

The American Legion website: www.legion.org.

Personal

Crystal and Lauren Hammerton, granddaughters of Bobby and Jeffie Roberts of Robert Lee, excelled in their school and college work during the 2001-2002 year.

Crystal, a freshman at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, achieved a 3.667 GPA. Both semesters she was named a "Distinguished Student", one of the highest honors Tarleton S.U confers on students. She was invited and initiated into Phi Eta Sigma, a prestigious National Honor Society. Crystal has already been notified that she is a recipient for the second year of the \$1,200.00 President's scholarship. She has also been notified that she will receive for the second year, one of the many \$1,000.00 scholarships presented by the Grand Chapter of Texas Order of the Eastern

Lauren, an eighth grade student in Wunderlich Intermediate School in Houston, was on the All A Honor Roll. received outstanding achievements in math. Lauren was one of twelve out of over 300 eighth grade students to be nominated for "Outstanding 8th Grade Girl". This is a nomination by the teachers. She was also chosen after tryouts to be on the Golddusters Drill Team at Klein Forest High School in Houston for the 2002-2003 school year.

A youth without fire is followed by an old age without experience.

Charles Caleb Colton



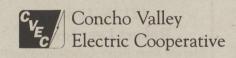
Texas Fiddlers play for the crowd at the 2002 Fort Chadbourne Days 150th



Several old-time re-enactments were just a small part of the action at the 2002 Fort Chadbourne Days.



Farmers are a part of our electric co-op.





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections