

Serving Coke County

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Friday, February 28, 2003

County 4-H members win at major shows

Coke County 4-H mem- Clay Antilley exhibited the at several major stock Crossbred steer. shows the last few weeks.

Ashley Sawyer recently exhibited the Best Buck of the Breed for Fancy Rabbits that went on to win the Grand Champion Fancy Rabbit during the recently completed San Angelo Stock Show. Ashley also exhibited the Best Doe of the Breed with her Solid Doe along with placings in other breed categories of rabbits with several seconds, thirds, fourths and other high placings.

At the Ft. Worth Stock Show, Katie Bessent exhibited the fourth place light Yorkshire barrow and

bers have placed animals thirteenth place heavy

During the San Antonio Stock Show, Katie Bessent exhibited the first place light Hampshire barrow and Nicole Sanchez placed her medium weight goat in the top twenty.

At the San Angelo Stock Show, Allison Millican placed her medium weight Finewool lamb third and her light weight Finewool lamb ninth; Lance Millican placed his light weight Finewool Cross lambs fourth and ninth. Ashlee Millican placed her medium Finewool lamb fifteenth; Cara Eaton placed her light weight Cross barrow ninth; Clay Antilley placed his



Three Bronte ISD educators attended the Ninth Annual "International Space Station Educator's Conference" ISSEC at NASA in Houston February 6, 7, and 8. They were Jerita Taylor (far left), Lloyd Walker (second from right) and Angel Cervenka (right).

medium American Breeds steer tenth and Molli Hinderliter placed her light weight goat fourteenth.

Ashlee Millican was awarded the Reserve Grand Champion in Lamb Showmanship.

Bronte educators attend conference at NASA in Houston

A group of educators from Region 15 were privileged to attend the Ninth Annual "International Space Station Educator's Conference", ISSEC at NASA in Houston on February 6, 7, 8. Lloyd Walker, Angel Cervenka, and Jerita Taylor from Bronte; Julie Mayfield, Sandy Pederson, Heidi Wierzoircki, Wendell Wheaton, Howard Miller, and Greg Barnhill from San Angelo traveled together to the conference. This was a very special conference coming on the aftermath of the STS-107 mission tragedy of the Space Shuttle Columbia and her crew. The teachers made a stop at the granite wall of the Johnson Space Center to remember the Astronauts and their families. It was covered with memorials for the

Astronauts from numerous schools, businesses, individuals, etc. The Bronte National Honor Society and the Student Council representing the Bronte Schools, sent a memorial of red, white, and blue carnations with a mylar balloon of the Stars and Stripes, and a small American Flag attached to the wreath. It was given to the workers at the "Help Desk" to be taken to the granite wall memorial, but they decided to keep it inside. It was placed on a draped table beside a large picture of the Columbia Crew at the entrance to the IMAX theater. This was where they had the keynote speakers and the banquet Friday night. It remained there for the rest of the conference. There were many remembrances to the lives of these Astronauts before each of the main sessions. Two Astronauts, Peggy Whitson and Chris Hadfield, who have flown on Space Shuttle missions to the International Space Station were among the speakers. They had known and worked with the Columbia Crew members. President George W.

Bush made this statement as he addressed the Nation on February 1, 2003, when he knew for sure that the Columbia was lost, "Mankind is led into the darkness beyond our world by the inspiration of discovery and the longing to understand. Our journey into space will go on."

The names of the seven Astronauts who lost their lives while serving mankind will never be forgotten: Rick Husband, David





Ashley Sawyer, a Coke County 4-H member, won the Grand Champion Fancy Rabbit Show at the San Angelo Livestock Show Friday, February 21. Ashley also exhibited her rabbits at the San Antonio Livestock Show February 15 and 16. She won eight first places, Best of Breed - Mini Lops, and Best of Opposites - Mini Lops, both days.

Ashley is the daughter of Tom Jr. and Sandy Sawyer and granddaughter of Tom and Gay Sawyer.

Brown, Laurel Clark, Kalpana Chawla, Willie McCool, Michael Anderson, and Ilan Ramon.

Gospel singing Sunday

The regular monthly community gospel singing will be held Sunday, March 2, 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.

Olfen fish fry set for March 7

There will be a fish fry held Friday, March 7th in the Olfen Cafeteria from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Fresh fried catfish will be served with all the trimmings.

Page 2 Friday, February 28, 2003 The Observer/Enterprise be returned to the Main St.

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FSA sign up for NAP on hay nearly over

The final date to purchase a NAP policy for any hay crop in our county is March 15, 2003. Producers who have not paid their \$100.00 by this date will not be covered under the NAP program. Also, producers who had a NAP policy on HAY in 2002 must furnish their production records by March 15th or you will be given a 0, zero, for 2002 production. This will bring your NAP yield down for 2003.

Some producers have asked about 2002 NAP on HAY and GRASS. As of Feb. 25, the office has not been notified, by the State Office, as to what our percent below normal was for 2002 on either of these crops. Until the State Office furnishes this information to the office, payments cannot be issued.

For more information about DCP or NAP, you may contact our office at, (915) 453-2751, or visit the national website at http://www.fsa/usda/gov.

SA Writers' Club news

The San Angelo Writers' Club will meet at 7 pm Tuesday, March 11, in the conference room at VistaCare Family Hospice, 940 B Arroyo Drive, San Angelo. An informal social period will precede the meeting, beginning at 6:30 pm.

Anyone interested in writing, whether or not a published author, is invited

Check Out Coke Co. Library

The spring book sale at the Coke County Library will be held Friday, February 28th and Saturday, March 1st from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. As one patron noted, the book sales usually bring on some interesting weather. It is hoped there is no repeat of the Monday and Tuesday snow and ice.

One set of recent fiction books will sell for \$1.00. The rest of the hardback books will sell for twentyfive cents and paperbacks will sell for 10 cents. Donations of books for the sale have been coming in. There are some good "reads" in this sale.

Some other of the nonfiction books coming in as a result of the Book Festival grant are as follows: Fire Ants, by Stephen Taber and printed by the Texas A&M Press. At 227 pages with an extensive bibliography, this book will provide answers to any fire ant question. The Life History of a Texas Birdwatcher; Connie Hagar of Rockport, Tx., by Karen McCracken is also printed by Texas A&M Press. Early Tejano Ranching: Daily Life at Ranchos San Jose and El Fresnillo by Andres Saenz; Close Calls: Jan Reid's Texas, "a book of Texans, rich and poor, famous and downtrodden."

Library hours are

be returned to the Main St. Market in Bronte, to the 24/7 book drop on the porch of the Library and to the main desk in the Library.

Severe Weather Awareness Week March 2-8

On Wednesday March 5, 2003, the National Weather Service in San Angelo will issue a practice Tornado Warning through NOAA Weather Radio, and the **Emergency Alert System** (EAS). The purpose of this drill is to give everyone an opportunity to practice their tornado procedures. practice Tornado A Warning will be issued in San Angelo at approximately 9:00 am, and a follow up cancellation Severe Weather Statement will be issued at around 9:15 am.

We urge you to "**Do The Right Thing**" whether you are at home, in your vehicle, asleep, outside, camping, or at work, says Hector Guerrero.

Stayed informed with NOAA Weather Radio, Local Radio or TV - always have a means to receive weather information.

Watch - A Tornado, Severe Thunderstorm, or Flash Flood Watch means conditions are favorable for a Tornado, Hail Storm, Damaging Winds, or a Flash Flood.

Warning - A Tornado, Severe Thunderstorm, or Flash Flood Warning means that a Tornado, Hail Storm, or Damaging Wind Storm is likely or imminent, and a Tornado, Hail Storm, or Damaging Wind Storm has been detected on radar or has been reported by our SKYWARN Storm Spotters.

Know the name of your county and those around you - have a road map nearby your TV remote control or radio receiver.

Tornado and High Wind Safety - Know the safe places from tornadoes and high winds, and be sure your family knows, too. An Underground Shelter is the safest place. However, the next safest place is an innermost room or hallway on the lowest floor of your home, school, or business away from outside walls and windows.

Abandon mobile homes for a safer place from both tornadic and straight line winds, and know where to go when a Watch or Warning is issued in your area.

Flash Flood Safety -Always Turn Around Don't Drown when you encounter a flooded low water crossing on foot or in a vehicle.

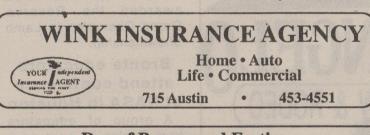
Lightning Safety - If you hear thunder, you're too. close. If you're caught outside in lightning, your car is a safe refuge. Stay away from windows.

Reclaiming your good name

Whether you discover unusual charges on your credit cards, start receiving bills for items you never bought, or notice accounts listed on your credit report that are not yours, identity theft is not easy to fix.

"As soon as you discover that you've been a victim of identity theft, take immediate action," said Steve Rhode, president and cofounder of Myvesta, a nonprofit financial management organization.

According to Rhode the first thing you should do is contact your local police department and report the crime. Then it's time to notify your creditors of what happened. Call your creditors and ask to speak to their fraud department, then follow up with a cer-



Day of Prayer and Fasting

An OPEN LETTER to the people of Bronte & Coke County: As many of you know, our country may be going to war soon...As Christians, we have an awesome obligation and distinct privilege to pray for our President and other national leaders, for our military personnel, the families of our military personnel, and for the international situation. We at BRONTE'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH are joining with other believers across our nation in calling for a DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING on Monday, March 3, 2003, (03-03-03), uniting in prayer for God's guidance and protection. Our building, located at 424 S. Washington, will be open all day for you to come by and pray. There will also be a special prayer service at 7:00 pm for our community to join together for a time of concerted prayer. If you have a relative or friend serving in the military, we encourage you to join with us for this special time of prayer. Please mark this on your calendars and plan to participate as fully as possible. (I Timothy 2.1-4).

tified letter, return receipt requested, to confirm your call.

Rhode also recommends taking these steps if you're a victim of identity theft:

*Obtain a consolidated copy of your credit report from Myvesta.org. A consolidated report contains information from all three credit-reporting agencies -Experian, Trans Union and Equifax.

*Contact the credit reporting agencies and have them place a fraud alert in your file.

*Call your bank or credit union and have them cancel your account numbers, ATM and debit cards and PIN numbers, then get new ones.

*Call your local utility companies to let them know that services may have been opened fraudulently in your name.

More information on recovering from identity theft can be found in "Identity Theft: How to Protect Yourself and What to Do If You Are a Victim." It can be downloaded from Myvesta.org.

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 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 Dr. Kenneth G. Patrick, Int. 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 • 6th & Houston (915) 453-2208 Rev. Erma Johnson, Pastor Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School 10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship Wed. 6 pm, Prayer Meeting **Tennyson Baptist Church** Hwy 277 • Tennyson, Texas (915) 482-0663 Rev. Rickey D. Green, Pastor Sun. 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship

to attend. For more information, call Barbara Jennison at 942-0632 or Barbara Barton at 949-7303.

Tuesdays, 8-12; Wednesdays, 8-4; Thursdays, 1-5; Fridays, 8-12. Story Hour is Tuesday at 10:00 am. Books may

CONGRATULATIONS! Coke County major stock show winners! Bell Auto Body Shop Robert Lee 453-2640

Sincerely and prayerfully yours, Pastor Morris Johnson and the members of FBC Bronte.

FINANCIAL FOCUS With Jim Woodruff of Edward Jones

Pay Off Mortgage Early - Or Invest

More for Retirement As mortgage rates have tumbled to levels not seen in decades, millions of Americans have rushed to refinance their homes. Generally speaking, this is probably a good idea; if you can lower your rate, you'll have more disposable income each month. And if you invest this money, you'll really be putting your mortgage savings to good use. But what if you don't want to simply refinance a 30-year mortgage? What if you want to replace your 30-year loan with one carrying a shorter term, such as 15 years? Is this a good move?

It might be -- but not necessarily from a financial point of view.

The question of switching from a 30-year mortgage to a 15-year one involves both financial and emotional issues -- and, as such, there is no easy answer. Let's look at the points to consider on both sides.

For many people, changing from 30-year to 15-year is simply intuitive: it just feels better to have a mortgage paid off sooner, rather than later. For most of us, a life without house payments sounds pretty good. And if you're already in your mid-forties to mid-fifties, you may be especially keen on having your mortgage paid off as you enter your retirement years.

Furthermore, you can save many thousands of dollars in interest by paying off your mortgage early.

Clearly, you've got some intriguing reasons to go from a 30-year mortgage to a 15-year one. However, you can find some equally compelling factors for not making the switch. For example, it may be great to save all those thousands of dollars in interest payments -- but, at the same time, all that interest was tax deductible. In fact, mortgage interest payments are the single biggest deduction that most people will ever have. So, once you've paid off your mortgage, you may need to find new ways to save money on taxes. Also, every extra dollar you devote to paying off a mortgage early is a dollar you won't be able to invest. Of course, there's no guarantee on what type of investment return you might get from the money you might have put toward a mortgage. And yet, if you put these funds into a well-diversified portfolio containing high-quality investments, you could speed up your progress toward some of your important long-term financial goals, such as a comfortable retirement.



Charlotte Glenn, a December 21, 2002, graduate of Baylor University, has accepted an invitation to attend the University of Texas Southwest Medical School in Dallas. She will enroll in the Fall 2003 session.

Miss Glenn took her degree in University Scholar's Premed, was on the Dean's List for three years and graduated magna cum laude in three and one-half years. She was a member of Alpha Phi Omega service organization, Phi Beta Kappa national honor society, and completed the requirements for Emergency Medical Technician certification. She is presently employed as a concierge at The Mansion at Turtle Creek Plaza 2 residence inn in Dallas.

Charlotte's parents are Doctors Victor and Liza Glenn of DeSoto, Texas. Clark and Mary Frances Glenn of Bronte and Mr. and Mrs. Wei-tzu Ting of Taipei, Tiawan are her grandparents.

Want to reduce

your cancer risk?

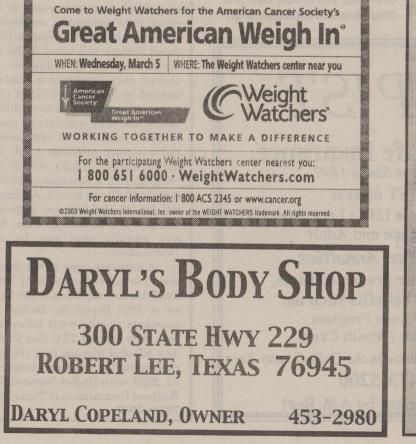
Find out how

you with more fianacial protection than paying off your mortgage early. If you encounter a severe setback -- disability, job loss, etc. -- you can always fall back on your investments until you regain your financial footing. But if the bulk of your assets are tied up in your house, you might be forced to refinance or look at other options, such as a home equity loan or line of credit. These aren't necessarily bad choices -- your home equity loan or credit line may be tax-deductible, and the interest rate may well be quite competitive. On the other hand, you have to be sure you can afford the payments on these types of loans, because you're essentially using your house as collateral.

So, there you have it; some sound reasons to pay off a mortgage early, and some sound reasons to keep paying on a longerterm mortgage and invest the difference.



Building up your investments also may provide





ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS

RL golf results

The Steers golf team took the Runner-up trophy in the first tournament of the year at the Anson Invitational, held last Saturday. The team shot a 349 to finish behind Coleman. Stewart Millican also was the runner-up medalist as he led the Steers with an 80. Evan Braswell, Josh Alexander, and Trey Sawyer finished in the top ten medalists with scores of 87, 88, and 89 respectively. Other scores included Cody Bridges with a 94 and Omar Saucedo with a 97. The Steers will host their next tournament, March 4 with tee time at 9:00 am.

The Anson girls tournament was rained out, so their first tournament will be at Merkel on March 5 with tee time at 9:00 am

RL Steers track meet results

The Robert Lee Steers track team came up just 3 points shy of winning the Water Valley track meet last Saturday. The Steers apparently missed the 4 team members that were at a power lifting meet that day. Those placing were: Brian Abalos, 1st -110 meter hurdles, 1st - 300 meter hurdles, 6th - 400 meter relay; Adam Caston, 3rd - distance medley relay, 6th - sprint medley relay; Mark Colon, 4th mile medley relay, 6th - 400 meter relay; Cole Flanagan, 4th mile medley relay, 5th - long jump, 5th - high jump, 6th - 400 meter relay; Vincent McClellan -2nd - 3200 meter relay; Andy Mulkey, 2nd - 3200 meter relay,



Breakfast Monday, March 3 Juice, pancake on stick, cereal, milk **Tuesday, March 4** Juice; donut, cereal, milk Wednesday, March 5 Juice, muffin, cereal, milk

3rd - distance medley relay, 4th mile medley relay; Travis Pitcock, 1st - high jump, 2nd pole vault, 4th - triple jump, 6th sprint medley relay; Cooper Riley, 3rd - discus, 3rd - shot put, 4th - mile medley relay, 6th - 400 meter relay; Shelby Sailer, 2nd -3200 meter relay, 3rd - distance medley relay, 6th - sprint medley relay; Chris Torres, 2nd - 3200 meter relay, 3rd - distance medley relay, 6th - sprint medley relay.

District 7-A boys All-District Team

All District - Cooper Riley, Travis Pitcock, Stewart Millican

Honorable Mention - Jaziel Gallegos, Brian Abalos, Cole Flanagan

Academic All-District - Travis Pitcock, Jaziel Gallegos, Cooper Riley

District 7-A girls All-District Team All District - Krystal Soliz

All District Krystal Soliz, senior post led the Lady Steers in scoring & rebounding, averaging 11.8 points per game & 6.4 rebounds per game.

Honorable Mention - Kindra Matthews - Senior point guard, led the Lady Steers with 4.8 assists per game and averaged 3 points per game; and Christina Middleton, senior forward second leading scorer at 7 points per game & averaged 4 rebounds per game. She also led the Lady Steers in free throw percentage, connecting on 37 of 58 free throws for 63.8%.

Lady Steers track results

The Lady Steer track team finished 6th out of 14 teams in the Water Valley track meet held on Feb. 22nd. Those placing were: High jump - 2nd - Cara Eaton; 4th - Rachel Wallace;

Distance medley relay - 4th -Cassidy Wink, Rachel Wallace, Nicole Sanchez, Monica Rodriguez

Sprint relay - 5th - Christina Middleton, Rachel Wallace, Tyler Lott, Cara Eaton

3200 relay - 4th - Cassidy

Wink, Ashley Womack, Alana Parker, Nicole Sanchez

Shuttle relay - 2nd - Tyler Lott, Kailee Radloff, Crystal Colon, **Jennifer Fluhmann**

Weightwoman relay - 2nd -Julia Cruz, Michele Sanchez, Amanda Thurman, Jessica Fluhmann

300 hurdles - 5th - Crystal Colon

RL Academic All-

District selections (Maintained a 90 average for the season)

Boys - Jaziel Gallegos, Cooper Riley, Travis Pitcock

Girls - Christina Middleton, Krystal Soliz, Kindra Matthews, Nicole Sanchez, Amie Kendall, Jessica Fluhmann, Cara Eaton, **Cassidy Wink**

Teaching about money starts at home

We learn just about everything in school. From how the sun warms the earth to the calculations for the area of a circle, but we never learn the basics of money. "People often assume that we should just naturally know how to handle our finances," said Mike Kidwell, vice president and co-founder of Myvesta, the nation's first financial health center. "In reality, it's a learned skill just like driving a car or using a computer. By teaching your kids the basics of money you can help them avoid learning the hard way."

No matter what the age of your children, it's a good idea to talk to them about money and teach them financial responsibility. "Whether you realize it or not, your kids are learning about money from the way you handle yours," Kidwell said. "If your children are under ten years old, sit down with them and explain a few basics like how an ATM machine doesn't just magically give you cash or that when you swipe your card at the supermarket you really are paying for the groceries."

Once your child reaches elementary school age, Kidwell recommends you should start your child's financial education by giving him an allowance. "For younger kids, start off by giving them a dollar or two a week. Try to instill the importance of saving money by requiring them to set aside a small amount for the future," Kidwell said. "Also help them to learn the importance of short-term savings by saving up for a big purchase."

"As your children get older increase their allowance accordingly. When they reach their teenage years encourage them to get a job or do yard work for the neighbors to earn their own spending money. Consider getting a high school student a prepaid debit card or help them open a checking account. This will teach them how credit works so they are prepared when they go out on their own," Kidwell added

For a comprehensive guide on teaching children about money, download the publication "How to Talk to Your Kids About Money" from Myvesta.org, or price on publication, contact Jim Tehan at 301-762-5270, ext. 123.

Host Families Needed

HOST FAMILIES are needed to host international teens from over 30 different countries for the 2003/2004 fall semester or academic year. They are in need of caring families to provide a home and share with them this unique experience. The host family will provide a bed, meals, as well as friendship, understanding, and a genuine desire to share the American way of life with a youngster from overseas. The students speak English, are covered by medical insurance, have spending money for their personal expenses, and hope to arrive in August for enrollment in their new high school.

All students are between the ages of 15 and 18, and will attend the high school closest to their host family's home or a private high school. Families are able to review student applications and select the student they feel will best match their family. For more information, please call Yvette Coffman at the SHARE! Southwest Office at 1-800-941-3738.

NOTICE OF GAS RATE INCREASE REQUEST

TXU Gas Distribution (the "Company"), in accordance with the Gas Utility Regulatory Act, hereby gives notice of its intent to implement a new schedule of rates for natural gas service to be charged to all residential, commercial and industrial customers in the unincorporated areas in the vicinity of the West Region Distribution System ("Environs Customers"). The West Region Distribution System includes the following cities: Abilene, Albany, Alvarado, Anson, Avoca, Baird, Ballinger, Bangs, Benjamin, Blackwell, Blanket, Blum, Bronte, Brownwood, Buffalo Gap, Carbon, Carlsbad, Cisco, Cleburne, Clyde, Coleman, Colorado City, Comanche, Covington, DeLeon, Desdemona, Dublin, Early, Eastland, Glen Rose, Godley, Gordon, Goree, Gorman, Granbury, Hamlin, Haskell, Hawley, Hermleigh, Hillsboro, Impact, Itasca, Joshua, Keene, Knox City, Lawn, Lipan, Loraine, Lueders, May, McCaulley, Meridian, Merkel, Miles, Moran, Morgan, Munday, Novice, O'Brien, Olden, Osceola, Ovalo, Putnam, Ranger, Red Springs, Rhineland, Rio Vista, Robert Lee, Roby, Rochester, Roscoe, Rotan, Rowena, Rule, San Angelo, Santa Anna, Santo, Seymour, Snyder, Stamford, Stephenville, Strawn, Sweetwater, Sylvester, Talpa, Throckmorton, Trent, Truscott, Tuscola, Tye, Valera, Vera, Weinert, Whitney, Wingate, and Winters.

The proposed revisions to the respective rate schedules will impact Residential Service, Commercial Service, Industrial Sales, Industrial Transportation, Rate Adjustment Provisions (Gas Cost Adjustment, Tax Adjustment, and Surcharges), and Miscellaneous Service Charges (Connection Charge, Read for Change Charge, Returned Check Charges, Delinquent Notification Charge, Main Line Extension Rate, Excess Flow Valve Charge, and Certain Stand-by Gas Generators). The proposed new schedule of rates will also eliminate the Rate Schedule for Public Schools-N and Commercial Contract Public Schools Rate.

The proposed rates are expected to produce a \$357,845 or a 10.27 percent increase in the Company's annual revenues from residential, commercial and industrial environs customers in the West Region Distribution System. The proposed change will affect 3,494 residential, 475 commercial customers and 18 industrial customers. The proposed change may constitute a "major" change as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code. The proposed changes will have differing impacts on individual residential and commercial customers, depending on consumption and current applicable rate schedules. A residential customer receiving a bill for 6 Mcf will see a bill of approximately \$50.93, which would constitute a change ranging from a decrease of \$6.93 to an increase of approximately \$7.60 per month. A commercial customer receiving a bill for 30 Mcf will see a change ranging from a 14:71% decrease to a 15.39% increase. Information on the change in any specific area can be obtained from TXU Gas Distribution. A complete copy of the Statement of Intent, filed with the Railroad Commission of Texas on January 31, 2003 is available for inspection in the Company business office located at 1601 Bryan St., Dallas, Texas 75201. Persons with questions or who want information about this filing, or a copy, may contact TXU Gas Distribution at 1-800-460-3030. Any affected persons may file written comments or protest concerning the proposed change in environs rates by March 21, 2003, with Docket Services Section of the Legal Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967.

Thursday, March 6 Juice, pizza, cereal, milk Friday, March 7 Juice, cinnamon roll, cereal, milk

Lunch

Monday, March 3 Chicken O's, Mac & cheese, green beans, bread, peaches, milk **Tuesday, March 4**

Chili, crackers, potato patty, corn, banana pudding, milk Wednesday, March 5

Fajitas, cheese, salad, ranch beans, Spanish rice, applesauce, milk **Thursday, March 6**

Chicken A La King, rice, egg roll, salad, pineapple, milk

Friday, March 7

Hamburger, salad, pickles, tator tots, pears, milk



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Rated "A" Excellent by A.M..Best

Bronte track results

Bronte placed 4th in the Water Valley Track meet. Placing for Bronte were:

Shot put - 5th - Ashleigh Kelly, 6th - Kendra Graves

Discus - 4th - Melissa Palmer, 5th - Ashleigh Kelly High jump - 5th - Lillian

McMullan Long jump - 5th - Christan Kelly

District medley - 6th - Lillian McMullan, Heather Richey, Sarah Basquez, Kailey Howell

400 M relay - 4th - Ashley Denton, Britney McCutchen, Calli Johnson, Kanah Coalson

100 M hurdles - 4th-**Christan Kelly**

300 M hurdles - 3rd -Heather Richey

Sprint medley - 6th - Lindsay Butler, Calli Johnson, Megan Gibbs, Sarah Basquez Mile medley - 2nd - Kanah Coalson, Ashley Denton, Britney McCutchen, Kailey Howell

Weight man relay - 1st -Joe'l Sefcik, Kendra Graves, Desi Mirelez, Melissa Palmer

1600 M relay - 5th - Britney McCutchen, Ashley Denton, Heather Richey, Lillian McMullan

Bronte UIL news

Saturday, February 8, Bronte students attended the Wylie Valentine Classic UIL Invitational Meet. All of the students that attended gained valuable experience in their events and are showing improvement. Ariel Marrs won the second place medal in Spelling again at



Breakfast Monday, March 3 Cereal, sliced peaches, toast, milk **Tuesday, March 4** Breakfast burrito, orange

juice, milk

Wednesday, March 5

Scrambled eggs, hash browns, toast, milk

Thursday, March 6 Pancake and sausage on a

stick, grape juice, milk Friday, March 7

Pop tart, apple sauce, biscuit, milk

this meet. The following students attended the practice meet: Garrett Acker, Logan Acker, Charlie Bettis, Lyndon Butler, Monica De La Garza, Corin Garcia, James Graves, Jenna Herold, Jesse Howell, Garrett Jackson, Calli Johnson, Ashleigh Kelly, Jasmine Kresta, Jayci Malone, Ariel Marrs, Cody Moore, Heather Richey, Joe'l Sefcik, Scott Snyder, Lindsay Springer, Jonathan Tomes, Stephen Tomes, Ashley Torres, Cheyenne Webb, Joel Webb, Monica Whipple and Zach White.

A group of students from Bronte traveled to Bangs on Saturday, February 15, for a practice UIL academic meet. Ariel Marrs was again, successful in achieving second place in Spelling. Congratulations! Improvements were made and experience gained by all of the students who attended the meet as they prepare for the upcoming District UIL academic meet in Brownwood on Tuesday, March 18, and Friday, March 21. The following students attended the meet: Ashleigh Kelly, Desiree Mirelez, Scott Snyder, Megan Gibbs, Rebecca Rawlings, Josh Eubanks, Joseph Israel, Ashley Denton, Natalee Reed, Britney McCutchen, Ariel Marrs, Stephen Tomes, Garrett Acker, Kanah Coalson, Salena Soto, Tyson Baker and Blaine Dyess.

BJH experienced **Job Shadow Day**

Beginning on February 1, 2003, one million students across America experienced a firsthand look at how the academic skills they are learning in the classroom are put into action in the workplace. These students took part in the fourth annual National Groundhog Job Shadow Day, an event that pairs students with workplace mentors for an up close look at thousands of career choices.

Fourteen seventh-graders from Bronte Junior High got the chance to experience Job Day in mid Shadow Students February.

BRONTE SCHOOL

Herold, Kayla Hilliard, Kailey

shadowed various jobs at school and downtown. Participating businesses were: Town and Country, First National Bank of Bronte, Shalon's Floral Boutique, Main Street Market, Bronte Post Office, Cloud Nine Video, and Hall of Fame Wildlife Studio. At the school students shadowed with the cafeteria staff and the elementary and high school secretaries.

Those shadowing were: Emily Austin, John Basquez, Zach Bennett, Brady Helm, Holly Huskerson, Justin Jowers, Terrah Macon, Lora Martinez, Savannah Martinez, Emilie McMullan, Kyle Nealey, Miranda Parks, Cody Wallace, and Brett Wills. Career teacher for the class is Brian Arrott. The students gained valuable life experiences at each of the places they shadowed.

Day of Prayer and Fasting

An OPEN LETTER to the people of Bronte & Coke County: As many of you know, our country may be going to war soon...As Christians, we have an awesome obligation and distinct privilege to pray for our President and other national leaders, for our military personnel, the families of our military personnel, and for the international situation. We at **BRONTE'S FIRST BAPTIST** CHURCH are joining with other believers across our nation in calling for a DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING on Monday, March 3, 2003, (03-03-03), uniting in prayer for God's guidance and protection. Our building, located at 424 S. Washington, will be open all day for you to come by and pray. There will also be a special prayer service at 7:00 pm for our community to join together for a time of concerted prayer. If you have a relative or friend serving in the military, we encourage you to join with us for this special time of prayer. Please mark this on your calendars and plan to participate as fully as possible. (I Timothy 2.1-4).

Sincerely and prayerfully yours,

Pastor Morris Johnson and the members of FBC Bronte.



Lunch Monday, March 3

Pizza, tossed salad, sweet corn, brownies, milk **Tuesday, March 4**

Corn dogs, macaroni & cheese, tator tots, pork & beans, banana pudding, milk Wednesday, March 5

Sliced roast beef, gravy, creamed potatoes, green beans, rolls, chocolate cake, milk

Thursday, March 6

Lasagna, tossed salad, corn on the cob, bread sticks, jello, milk Friday, March 7

Chick-Fil-Lay sandwich, lettuce, tomato, pickles, French fries, bun, peanut butter cookies, milk

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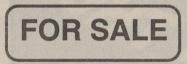
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preguntas llamen al Administrador Mary Ann Choat. 30-3tc



Capitol Update

by Scott Campbell, State **Representative Dist. 72** In coming years, water availability will likely be the biggest and most challenging issue this state has ever faced. It already is in West Texas.

Controversy over various water-related issues is occurring in the Brackettville area and other areas in South Texas, and a lack of water is causing worry and legal problems for the city of San Angelo. There are no easy answers.

My new job as a member of the Texas Legislature has provided me an interesting perspective in dealing with water issues with quick access to "experts". On the one hand, I see a city's need to provide water for its citizens, and it is my intention to help the cities in my district in that regard. On the other hand, I understand the desires of landowners to protect their private property rights which may be in the form of underground water or surface water rights.

In the particular case of my district -- House District 72 -the situation is basically a need for a backup supply of water. City and state officials have looked high and low for a new source, and thank goodness for the farsightedness of those before us who created Lake Ivie which now provides water for the major communities of San Angelo, Midland, and Odessa, and soon Abilene. An unprecedented drought has caused a serious decline in the level of lvie, and it is now below 40 percent capacity. The problem is there is simply no other available supply of water within near proximity. No expert had ever anticipated such a long stretch of time without significant runoff. So the question is: What do we do?

Since my swearing in on Jan. 14, I've been talking to anyone and everyone who has insight to our state's water situation, and we are attempting to develop an idea which is the culmination of all those conversations.

One feasible idea, I believe, is desalination. Underground salt water is plentiful throughout much of West Texas -ask anyone in the oil and gas business. Experts say some of the water below us is too salty to feasibly desalinate, but there are huge aquifers of water that would be ideal for a desalination project. And with desalination in the forefront of Governor Perry's water plan, it seems logical to develop a program to benefit the major cities of West Texas. By regionalizing, we'll have a program which will be efficient with costs divided among those involved. Pipelines already run from a point at Lake Spence, near Robert Lee, to Midland, Odessa, and San Angelo. Geologists in our region tend to agree that salty water

exists in large quantities. To take that water and turn something that's worth nothing into something that's worth something, is a beautiful idea in my mind. It also eliminates the political problems involved with going to other areas and importing fresh groundwater or surface water which then depletes the water supplies of others.

Experts will say the main drawback is the high expense involved in desalination -- primarily the cost of electrical power. The idea of using wind-generated and solar power appeals to me, and wind is one of the few things we have plenty of around here. There are other good possibilities in the works which will be discussed in the near future as details warrant.

We have also been working with city officials of Bronte to assist in constructing a pipeline and securing rights-of-way for wells which will provide water for the community since their lake has gone dry. Things are progressing well, and the project appears near completion.

Numerous other projects are underway in the 72nd District, and we're looking forward to helping our citizens in every way possible. Please don't hesitate to contact us with your questions and concerns.

Premature births soar in Texas

The March of Dimes Texas Chapter recently launched its statewide effort in a \$75 million, five-year national campaign to reduce the number of babies born prematurely in the U.S. Premature birth/low birth weight is the number-one cause of newborn death in Texas and can cause lifelong health problems for babies who survive.

Almost 13 percent of Texas babies (45,600) were born prematurely, or before 37 weeks gestation, in 2000 - higher than the national average of 11.6 percent. Each week in Texas, approximately 877 babies are born preterm. In the past decade, the rate of preterm birth in Texas has increased more than 13 percent. Many of these babies have serious health problems. Those who survive may suffer lifelong consequences, from cerebral palsy and mental retardation to blindness.

"It is vital for the future wellbeing of babies in Texas that we take action about the problem of premature birth now," said Dr. David Smith, chairman of the March of Dimes Texas Prematurity Campaign and chancellor of the Texas Tech University System. "For thousands of Texas families, the answers can't come soon enough." Most Americans today are unaware of the magnitude of this health problem. In a recent March of Dimes national survey of 1,967 adults, only 35 percent of respondents identified prematurity as "very serious" or "extremely serious." In the same survey, more than 50 percent believed the rate of preterm birth is declining or about the same.

published in the February 2003 issue of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. The results of a similar survey of 605 pregnant women appears in the January 2003 issue of Contemporary OB/GYN.

In addition to the cost in human terms, prematurity imposes financial burdens on insurers, businesses and families. In 2000, hospital charges for 23,000 prematurity-related infant stays totaled \$1.2 billion. The average charge was \$58,000 per baby, compared to \$4,300 for a typical newborn stay.

The net cost of health care for treatment of preterm newborns covered by employer health plans is approximately \$4.7 billion - equivalent to approximately two percent of corporate after-tax profits.

The March of Dimes national prematurity campaign will invest \$75 million over the next five years and will raise new funds to support research into the causes and treatment of prematurity. The campaign will also advocate for an increase of \$10 million annually in federally funded research into the causes of prematurity.

In 2003, the March of Dimes Texas Chapter will give \$1.5 million in community grants that will address the need for increased access to health care for pregnant women and will educate women about both the warning signs of premature labor and the risk factors associated with prematurity.

More than 100 March of Dimes volunteers from across Texas met with Texas lawmakers on the 18th, to discuss the Foundation's public affairs priorities.

The March of Dimes is a national voluntary health agency whose mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality. Founded in 1938, the March of Dimes funds programs of research, community services, education and advocacy to save babies. For more information, visit the March of Dimes Web site at www.marchofdimes.com, its Spanish language Web site at www.nacersano.org, or call 1-888-MODIMES.

S&GPMB elects officers for 2003

The Sheep & Goat Predator Management Board (S&GPMB) held its

The Observer/Enterprise Friday, February 28, 2003 Page 7

William Edmiston of Eldorado (District 2); Jim Davis of Menard (District 2); Eugene Vinson of Big Lake (District 1); Bill Tullos of San Angelo (District 1); John Wade of Sonora (District 1).

Officers elected for fiscal year 2003 were: President Dan Crenwelge, Vice President - Jim Davis, and Secretary-Treasurer - Bill Tullos. W. Roy Jacoby continues to serve the board as their Audit/Education Liaison Representative.

Winter Allergies

Think allergies are just a spring/fall phenomenon? Think again. A Texas winter may not be cold for some, but many will run the heater to keep comfortable during the winter months. The house dust mite, a year-round allergen, may increase in the winter months with dry air from heating ducts and use of stored blankets and sweaters that are dusty.

Sandra McMahan, assistant professor at the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center College of Medicine and physician at Scott & White Memorial Hospital's depart-Allergy ment of Immunology, has some tips on avoiding dust mites this winter. "Changing filters frequently, covering mattresses and pillows with impermeable barrier covers (vinyl), vacuuming regularly and washing all bed linens in hot water weekly will all help greatly in avoiding the house dust mite," says Dr. McMahan.

Mounting cedar pollen, pollen from juniper trees that pollinate from late December 'through February in central Texas,

can be difficult to avoid. Dr. McMahan recommends allergy sufferers visit their doctor if over-the-counter antihistamines are not working.

Forecasters are predicting this to be a wet winter for Texas. Mold can accumulate in a house too tightly insulated so that windows or walls 'sweat'. Areas that are chronically damp should be cleaned with a mild bleach solution. And moderate thermostat settings are some help in avoidance.

Emergency farm loan applications being accepted

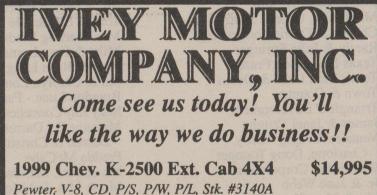
Applications for emergency farm loans for losses due to damages and losses caused by drought and excessive temperatures that occurred on various dates from January 1, 2002, and continuing, are being accepted at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office located in Sweetwater.

Coke and Sterling Counties, as primary disaster counties, were recently declared eligible for FSA EM loss loans.

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

Applications for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until June 23, 2003 but farmers should apply as soon as possible. Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing.

The FSA office in Sweetwater is open from 7:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday.



The results of this survey are

initial meeting of 2003 in late February. Formed in 1992 by a referendum vote of sheep and goat producers, the board meets everyother-month and oversees collection and use of a 20cent per head assessment that funds predator management programs. The nine member board is elected by producers to represent its three districts encompassing 111 counties. Each board member serves a six-year term. Board members are: Dan

Crenwelge of Fredricksburg (District 3); Dwight Nanny of Gouldbusk (District 3); Gordon Hays of Ballinger (District 3); W.B. Patterson III of Hunt (District 2);

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A special thanks to those who helped with the Barbeçue: Wayland Drennan, Gaylon Pitcock, Roy Tinkler, Donnie Robertson, Curtis Walker, Clark Tinkler, Matthew Tinkler, John Hurley, Mike Bagwell, Woody Roe, Jeffie Roberts, Sue Wojtek, Jessie Harmon and the Directors' Wives.

Also, thanks to the 4-H & FFA mothers who worked in the concession stand & Ron Cooper & Ray Sparks for announcing during the show and sale.