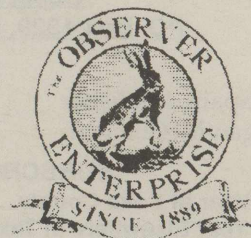


THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

Single Copy 35¢



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

Vol. 116, No. 08

Friday, September 12, 2003

Amendment election set for September 13

A Constitutional Amendments Special Election will be held Saturday, September 13.

Polling locations for Saturday's election include: Precinct 1 - Robert Lee Senior Building; Precinct 2 - Bronte Senior Building; Precinct 3 - Coke County Courthouse; and Precinct 4 - Santa Fe Depot in Bronte.

Twenty-two propositions make up the special election ballot and are summarized on page 12 of this issue.

According to Coke County Clerk Mary Grim, early voting totals were higher than expected. The combined total of early and mail-in votes cast was 108 ballots.

Man bitten by rattler near Bronte

Michael Brandon Walters of Kruegerville was bitten by a three foot rattlesnake Friday, September 5, while dove

hunting on the Willie B. Edmiston place northeast of Bronte.

According to R. J. Millikin of Abilene, one of the five hunters in the group, Mr. Walters was dressed in shorts and sandals and was bitten on his ankle.

The victim was transported to Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo and is listed in fair condition.

Vietnam Wall experience is coming to Abilene

The Big Country Veterans and community supporters are bringing the Vietnam Wall experience to Abilene's Nelson Park September 11-14, 2003.

Admission to the wall is free and visitors will have the opportunity to view the name catalog or volunteers will assist in finding the names at the computer station. Materials

will be furnished for a rubbing of names from the Wall.

The Quilt of Tears is a quilt

created of blocks from loved ones where Agent Orange was a factor and a photo exhibit from the Smithsonian will be in the Discovery Center.

The Grand Opening will be held Friday, September 12. A sunrise opening will be held Sunday, September 14, and closing ceremonies will be held at 5 pm. The Wall is available for viewing 24 hours a day and security is provided.

CC Retired teachers to meet

Coke County Retired Teachers Association will meet Monday, Sept. 15, 2003. The noon luncheon meeting will be held at the First Baptist Church in Bronte.

Swine validation deadline nears

Any 4-H or FFA member that plans to exhibit their pig projects at any of the major stock shows, Ft. Worth, San Antonio, San Angelo or Houston must have them validated with a State Swine Validation tag. Tags will have to be ordered before September 17. If you plan to show your pig at major shows, contact either the County Extension office or your Vo. Ag. teacher and tell how many tags you want.

FSA announces sign-ups in progress

Coke and Sterling Counties have been approved for the LAP program. Both counties qualified for years 2001 and 2002. However, a producer is only eligible for payment in one year. In determining which year to sign

up for a producer would want to use the year in which he/she had the most livestock.

The starting date to begin a livestock count in Coke County is May 1st of either year and the ending date is November 26th, of either year used. In Sterling County the beginning and ending dates are May 1st through November 25th.

Because LAP payments will be factored, no payments will be issued until after sign up has ended and Washington has determined the factor. The final date to sign up for the program is October 24th. There will be no late-filed applications allowed since all signup information will be forwarded to Washington as soon as sign up ends for the factor calculation.

Producers interested in LAP should make an appointment as soon as possible.

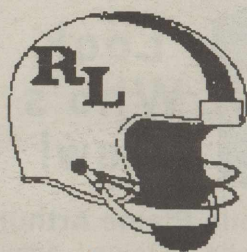
The office is currently taking applications for the Crop Disaster program and has begun issuing payments on applications that can be approved. Producers who have not signed up need to make an appointment and sign up today.

For more information call (325) 453-2751 or come by the office.

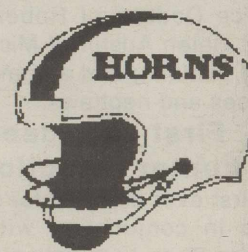
Benefit golf tournament slated

A benefit golf tournament for Sterling and Coke County Stock Show Associations will be held at Mountain Creek Golf Course in Robert Lee on Saturday, September 13th at 8:30 am. It will be a 4 man scramble ABCD. Bring a team or just show up.

Homecoming



2003



ROBERT LEE STEERS

vs.

Garden City Bearkats

8:00 pm

Friday, September 12

Robert Lee

BRONTE LONGHORNS

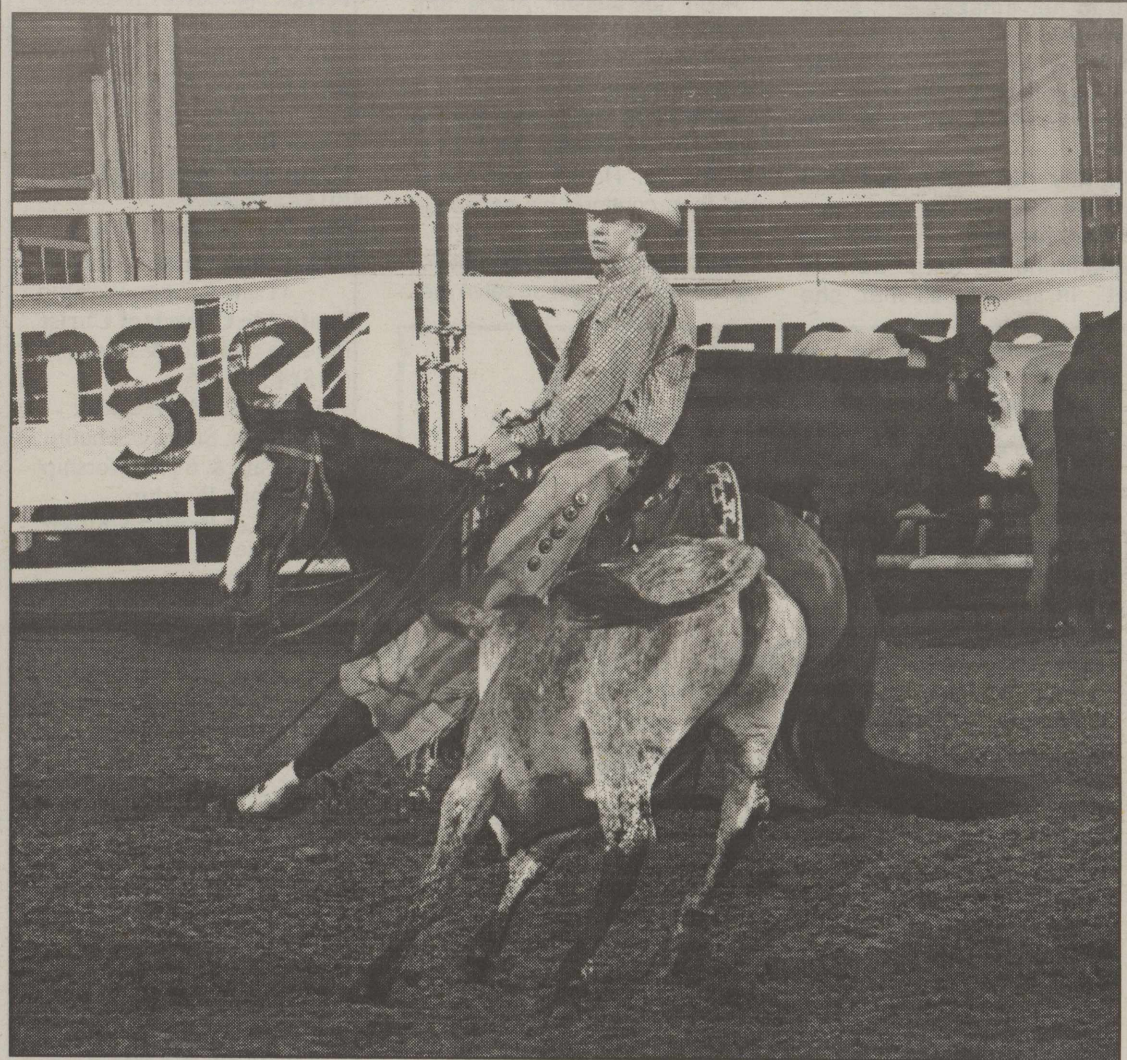
vs.

Rotan Yellowhammers

7:30 pm

Friday, September 12

Bronte



Jake McCabe earned the Texas High School Rodeo Association Region II High School Cutting Championship and went on to win the overall THSRA Reserve Cutting Championship. At the National HSRA contest, Jake tied for second place in the first round of competition against 125 horses from all over the United States, Canada and Australia. He was riding Chase A Little Smoke (Spook), owned by Russell and Eileen Graham of Roscoe. Jake is a 16 year old junior at Robert Lee High School and the son of Mike and Diana McCabe. For more information on cutting and its impact on youth, please see the article by Heather Rafferty on page 9 of this issue.

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Death Notices

Johnson

Dorothy Johnson of Denver, Colorado, died August 23, 2003, at the age of 80. Burial was in Ft. Logan National Cemetery.

Her survivors include one daughter, Linda Johnson of Larkspur, Colorado; three grandchildren; two sisters, Joyce Dodson of Robert Lee and Helen Austin of Michigan City, Indiana; and a number of nieces and nephews.

First ever deer hunter's auction

First ever deer hunter's auction in conjunction with the Texas Deer Association's Live Whitetail Deer Auction will be held in Round Rock. The state of Texas is the leading state in the nation for deer hunting and is being spearheaded by the Scientific Breeders in Texas, licensed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife. The hunter's auction will be on Friday night and will include trophy class hunts for deer, turkey, exotics and hogs. Most of these ranches have never sold a hunt at auction before and you will be able to buy these hard to get hunts for what they are really worth.

The Live Deer Auction will be held Saturday September the 13th and feature the best genetics Texas has to offer. This Saturday auction will be for whitetail deer only.

If you would like more information about the Hunter's Auction or the Live Deer Auction, please call Ron Boren at 903-586-2213 or Email jngrimes@grimesranch.com.

Runnels Baptist Association to meet

Runnels Baptist Association will meet Monday, September 15, at Wingate Baptist Church.

The executive board & WMU will meet at 5:30 pm. The evening meal will be served at 6:15 pm.

A program on State Missions will begin at 7:15 pm. Morris Johnson, missions/evangelism director, is in charge of the program.

The public is invited to attend.

ECC ambulance runs for August 2003

08-01 - 20:55 - trauma transport
08-03 - 08:35 - medical transport
08-14 - 11:30 - medical transport
08-21 - 16:50 - medical transport
08-22 - 04:45 - medical transport
08-25 - 15:28 - medical

transport
08-25 - 17:50 - trauma transport

Donations

Kay & Ben Hambricht

Memorials

Bon Spoons

Lois Wallace
Larry & Merle Kelso

Charlie Bagwell

Larry & Merle Kelso

Bronte fire department runs for August 2003

08-10 - 6:15 - motor vehicle accident

08-14 - 17:45 - motor vehicle accident

08-18 - 14:00 - brush fire

08-20 - 21:00 - brush fire

08-23 - 23:45 - structure fire

08-24 - 02:00 - structure fire

08-25 - 17:45 - power line down

Donations

Kay & Ben Hambricht
Mark Duncan

RLVFD news

by Marian Thompson

Secretary RLVFD held its business meeting on Tuesday, September 2nd as Monday was Labor Day. 11 members were present. All reports were accepted. Chief Rick Drennan relayed the information we received when emergency personnel met with Judge Roy Blair and Sheriff Rick Styles at the courthouse on August 28th.

Dispatcher Bud Thompson talked about the 9 fire calls we had last month. 08-22, there was a vehicle fire on 208 at Sanco Loop with 9 men responding. 08-23, 6 firemen were on standby for Bronte who was at a fire in Blackwell. 08-29, Water Valley Fire Department and Robert Lee both received a call of a wildland fire started by lightning in the south west corner of Coke County. 12 firemen responded with 3-5 hours each. Water Valley had Robert Lee stand by until they located the fire. First the tanker left the station, followed by truck 6 and later truck 5. Upon arrival at the scene, the fire was under control and truck 5 returned to the station.

Total calls for the month, 6 county, 2 city, and 1 South of Tennyson. 107 man hours with 25 truck hours and 86 truck miles one way per truck each incident. 5 grass fires, 4 with less than 1 acre burned and the Water Valley fire over 75 acres. 1 MVA and 2 vehicle fires.

The department held 1 business meeting, 1 work night, 1 training class and the meeting with Judge Blair, Sheriff Styles, and Clea Timmons, WCCEMS, ECCEMS, Robert Lee and Bronte Fire Departments. 56 hours were recorded for other activities.

The group discussed Fire Prevention Week, which is the first week of October, and the progress with truck 3, which will be a first responder when it is completed. The 6 trucks are slow and they need a fire vehicle that can get to the county fires faster. The members present received their new bunker gear, which was purchased with a grant from the Texas Commission on Fire Prevention. The new bunker gear is Safety Yellow and will stand out at night.

The fire department needs volunteers, especially those who would be available during day times. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer fireman, contact Bud Thompson at 453-4423, Chief Rick Drennan, or any fireman. Members of the fire department meet the 1st Monday of each month for a business meeting at the fire station. Classes are held on Mondays at the station for those who wish to become a certified fireman.

Cadets are ages 16 to 18 years, with parents consent and will receive fire and rescue training. Visitors are always welcome to come to the meetings.



Look Who's New!

Rachelle Elaine Arthur

Rachelle Elaine Arthur made her debut at Community Hospital in San Angelo August 27, 2003, at 8:35 pm. She is the daughter of Drake and Barbara Arthur of San Angelo, whose family members reside in Robert Lee. She weighed in at 7 pounds 4 ounces and 19 1/4 inches long. She has brown hair and blue eyes.

She was wrapped in a blanket and presented to her delighted mother and dad, and to her amazed and awed Grandmother Nancy Arthur, Uncle Frank and Aunt Emily who had formed the cheering squad for her mom during the birth.

Family has observed that she favors her daddy most with her mother's chin and her grandmother's long narrow feet. In spite of all that, she

has been proclaimed a beauty by the entire family.

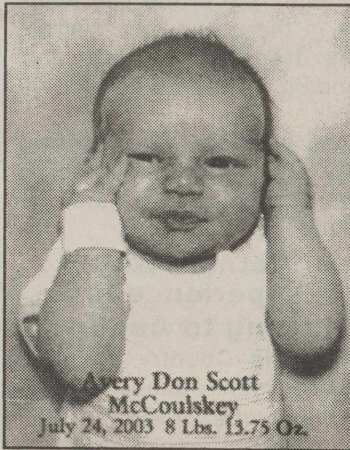
She is the great-granddaughter of Dot Starling of Robert Lee and great-niece of Ed Lohman of Robert Lee. She is also the granddaughter of David and Debbie Lohman of Copperas Cove, Texas. The great-grandfather is Rip Arthur of Coahoma, formerly of Silver.

Toree Netting

Makenna & Bridger Netting are excited to announce the birth of their new baby sister! Toree Netting was born on August 7, 2003 at 8:03 am to Mike and Tonya Netting. She weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz. and measured 19 inches.

Toree's paternal grandparents are Larry and Mary Gutierrez and Linda Netting, all of San Antonio. Great grandparents are Fidel & Rose Gutierrez of Clayton, NM.

Maternal grandparents are Larry and Zackie Dunbar of Rocksprings. Great grandparents are Allan and Peggy Dunbar and Vernon & Alta Dutton, also of Rocksprings. Toree has one great-great grandmother, Velma Dutton of Junction.



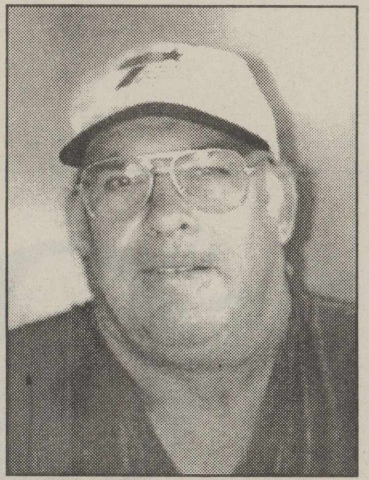
Avery Don Scott McCoulskey

Avery Don Scott McCoulskey was born on July 24, 2003, and is the son of Scott and Dona McCoulskey. Avery weighed 8 lbs. 13.75 oz. and was born at Community Hospital.

Avery has a sister, Alexis, and brother, Alan, who both attend the Robert Lee Head Start and all live in Robert Lee.

Scott is currently serving the army in Alverdine, MD, until October 22. He will come home, and then continue his service in Korea for one year.

Dona has finished cosmetology school and will receive her



Bucky Sparks was one of seven employees from the Texas Department of Transportation's San Angelo District to receive a service award during August.

Sparks was recognized for 25 years of service with the department. The San Angelo District employee is a maintenance tech at the Coke County Maintenance Section.

license after taking the state board. Avery was named after his daddy and his grandpa Don, who recently passed away.

Avery has proud grandparents, Gina Bell of Robert Lee and the late Don Bell; Deanna McCoulskey of San Angelo and Kevin McCoulskey of Carlsbad. Avery is a miracle - the family nearly lost him.

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

Bro. Miller Robinson, 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

REVIVAL

at

Robert Lee Baptist Church

September 14-17

Rev. Milton Tyler, Evangelist

Mike Harris, Song Leader

Rev. Mike Poye, Pastor

Sunday Morning Service at 11 am

Sunday Evening Service at 7 pm

Monday - Wednesday

12 noon & 7 pm

Choir Practice at 6 pm each evening

*Everyone is invited
& encouraged to attend.*

Attention All You Ropers!

Don't miss the BIG EVENT at this year's Street Affair in Robert Lee. Prove your extraordinary skills with the twine at the CHICKEN TEAM ROPING. That's right. There will be several divisions, from seniors to youth. So round up your flock and practice your "chicken loop" for the upcoming Street Affair at 2:00 on October 4.

Report of the "Quilting Women"

by Ava Lou Davis

While rummaging through items in the old Coke County Jail, a quilt top was found that was made in the 1930's and 40's by a group of women from the Robert Lee area. The quilt top was donated to the Robert Lee United Methodist Women, and they voted to make a quilt from the old quilt top.

The finished product will be dedicated and hung in the church for public viewing during the upcoming Street Affair on October 4. Listed below are some of the women who were involved in the initial quilting during the 30's and 40's.

Eva Murtishaw, one of the women whose name is on the antique quilt, was famous. When she was a young girl, she made the first flag that was flown in Coke County. She made it by hand in 1894. Her maiden name was Vestal.

Emma Baze and Albert Baze lived on a ranch outside of Robert Lee. Her son, Albert Baze, Jr., attended Robert Lee High School. Albert Jr. was captain of the first football team for Robert Lee. His wife to be, was the leader of the Pep Squad, Lois Denman.

Lizzie Bell and her husband, W.H. Bell lived across the street on a hill overlooking Mountain Creek. Her grandchildren call her Grammie. So everyone here has been misinformed. It wasn't Mountain Creek, it was Grammie's Creek.

Ava Maxwell was another woman who wasn't afraid to show what she believed in. Doo Dad Davis was putting a new roof on the W. H. Maxwell house. He was surprised when Ava came up the ladder barefooted with a Bible in her hand to show him about foot washing in the scripture.

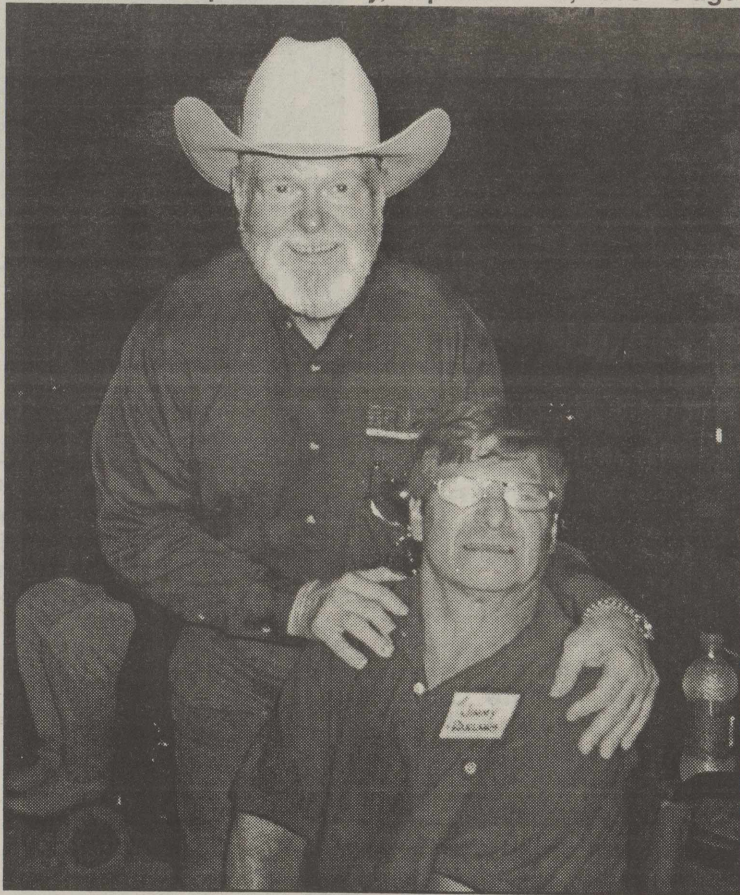
Weta Wylie is the wife of the late McNeil Wylie, Coke County Judge. Weta taught English for several years at Robert Lee High School. She was active in the WSCS of the Methodist Church. She lives in Norman, OK, close to her daughter, Janie Aebersold. She remembers making the quilt with all her friends.

We will highlight more of these important ladies in future issues.

Robert Lee Street Affair update

The Robert Lee Street Affair is scheduled for Saturday, October 4, 2003. The Affair looks to be better than ever this year.

A meeting of those involved in the Street Affair will be held Thursday, September 11, at 5:30 pm in the library. Chairmen are asked to have their plans firmed up so that flyers can be prepared for distribution around the county and in the media.



West Texas Rehab spokesman Red Steagall (left) and Jimmy Rawlings of Bronte were just two of the folks who enjoyed the Rehab kick-off at Fort Chadbourne Wednesday evening, September 3, 2003.

Anyone with an idea or an interest in helping will be most welcome at the meeting. Suggestions are best made before an event to be the most effective.

Round-Up for Rehab

A special cattle sale Thursday, September 18 at Producers Livestock Auction is the first in a series of eight regional Round-Up for Rehab fall sales to benefit West Texas Rehabilitation Center.

Scheduled at 1 pm in conjunction with Producers' regular weekly cattle sale, the event has already attracted pledges of quality animals from the Concho Valley area.

"We're encouraging Rehab friends in the agriculture industry to donate an animal or two, write a check...or be a buyer," said Bob Helmers, Concho Valley area Round-Up co-chairman.

"Producers will be selling animals for Rehab all next week...sheep and goats on Tuesday during the regular sale and cattle on Thursday during the special Rehab

sale," added Jody Frey, who serves with Helmers as volunteer co-chairmen.

"Also, the Center's chuckwagon will be on hand Thursday serving sausage, beans and cornbread prior to the Rehab sale and we invite WTRC supporters to come out, join us for lunch and help us 'bid 'em up' during the auction," Frey continued.

Joining local chairman in seeking Round-Up donations of livestock and cash is well-known cowboy singer/poet Red Steagall who is this year's new honorary chairman for Round-Up for Rehab.

"We're also reminding ranchers if this is an inconvenient time for them to cut out livestock, Producers and other auction houses will gladly cut a check to Rehab for the proceeds of one or more animals during the year when they are going to market," Helmers added.

For additional information or to arrange for animals to be picked up, contact a volunteer chairman or WTRC-San Angelo at 223-6300.



Because of Medicare, less than one percent of Americans 65 and over are without health insurance, compared with 15 percent of the general population.

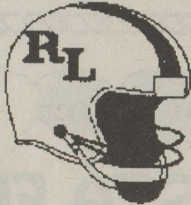
WINK INSURANCE AGENCY



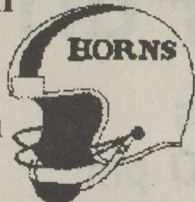
Home • Auto
Life • Commercial

715 Austin • 453-4551

Homecoming 2003!



Robert Lee vs. Garden City
8:00 pm



Bronte vs. Rotan
7:30 pm

Bell Auto Body Shop

Robert Lee

453-2640

SUPER H

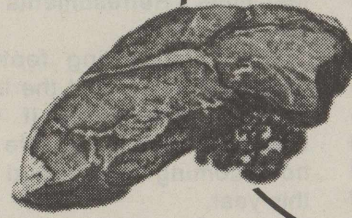
Texas Lotto Tickets Sold Here
WIC Cards Welcome
ATM Available



501 Commerce - Robert Lee, TX
Store Hrs: Mon.-Sat. 8-8 Sun. 8-6
SPECIALS GOOD 9/10 Thru 9/16
LIMIT RIGHTS RESERVED

Preferred Trim
Boneless Beef

**Sirloin Tip
Steak**

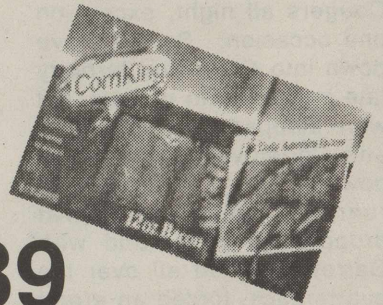


Lb. **\$1.99**

Corn King
**Sliced
Bacon**

12 oz.
pkg.

\$1.39



Family Pack
Bone In Sirloin Cut

Pork Chops

Lb. **\$.99**

Paper Bag or Zip Pack
**Gold Medal
Flour**

4.25 - 5
Lb. Bag

\$.89



Montelores

Pinto Beans

4 Lb.
Bag

\$1.19

**Blue Bell
Ice Cream**

2 1/2 Gal.
Round **/\$6.50**



Coca-Cola, Sprite

or Dasani

Drinking Water

3 6 Pack,
Half Liter
Bottles **/\$5**



BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS

Horns take win in 4th quarter

The Bronte Longhorns started the season 2-0 with a hard fought 7-6 victory over the Christoval Cougars. The primary difference being a made extra point.

The game was about as even as it could get stat wise. Bronte had 176 yards, Christoval 168 yards. Bronte had 8 first down, 2 turnovers and 51 plays against Christoval's 6 first downs, 2 turnovers and 51 plays.

Defense was the name of the game Friday night, as both offenses had a hard time getting untracked. Bronte had to punt 7 times and Christoval 9 times. Bronte defense continually shut down the Cougars, all night, except on one occasion. Bronte drove down into Christoval territory late in the fourth quarter, but were stopped on a 4th and 3, and Christoval took over on downs. After 2 unsuccessful running tries, Christoval dropped to pass, and with Garrett Jackson all over the quarterback, forced an errant pass that Joseph Israel caught in stride and ran in for a 13 yard interception return touchdown with 2:21 left in the game. Garrett Fiveash kicked the extra point for a 7-6 win.

The Longhorns did manage 172 yards rushing, 126 yards on 25 carries by Garrett Fiveash, but were unable to put the ball in the end zone.

Bronte next plays Rotan at Bronte for Homecoming

School Menu

Breakfast

Monday, Sept. 15

Cereal, peaches, toast & jelly, milk

Tuesday, Sept. 16

Pop tarts, orange juice, teddy grams, milk

Wed., Sept. 17

French toast sticks, apple juice, milk

Thurs., Sept. 18

Donut, applesauce, biscuit & jelly, milk

Friday, Sept. 19

Breakfast burrito, grape juice, milk

Lunch

Monday, Sept. 15

Steak fingers with gravy, creamed potato & green beans, rolls, vanilla pudding, milk

Tuesday, Sept. 16

Taco salad with cheese, lettuce & tomato, refried beans, Spanish rice, tortilla chips, pink panther cake, milk

Wed., Sept. 17

Chicken spaghetti, tossed salad, sweet corn, peaches, bread sticks, milk

Thurs., Sept. 18

Spud day, chili & cheese, potato (baked), steamed broccoli with cheese, crackers, jello, milk

Friday, Sept. 19

Cheeseburgers, lettuce & tomato & pickles, French fries, buns, peanut butter cookies, milk

Friday, September 12. Come out and watch the Longhorns as they try to make it a 3-0 start.

Bronte Class of 1948 plans 55th reunion

The Senior class of 1948 will have a 55 year reunion Sept. 12, 2003. They will meet from 5:00 pm until ? at the Senior Citizens Center near the Bronte County Park on East Park Road. This is the same building they met in last time. Refreshments will be available.

The homecoming football game will be held at the local stadium that night if you would like to attend. No big homecoming is planned for this year.

Former teachers, friends and visitors are welcome. For more information, call Bill Thomas at 473-3141.

Homecoming after game fellowship set

Everyone is invited to come by Bronte 1st Baptist Church Fellowship Hall following the Homecoming football game for a time of fellowship and visiting. Snacks will be furnished. For more information call Bonnie Reed (786-2370) or Leah Rosson (473-2463).

BHS class reunion

The Bronte High School classes of 1973, '74, '75, '76 & '77, will hold their reunion on Homecoming weekend, Fri. Sept. 12th, Bronte versus Rotan.

On Saturday, Sept. 13th, the reunion begins at 3 pm and ends at ? at the Bronte park.

Bring sandwiches, chips or dips. Bring your own drinks or water. Former teachers, coaches, and family friends are welcome. Contact Jim Rawlings at 325-473-7252.

Bronte Lady Shorthorns results

The Bronte Lady Shorthorns won a decisive victory over the Sterling City Lady Eagles Monday night in Bronte. The Shorthorn "A" team was able to extend a threatening lead with the ace serving by Savannah Martinez and Stephanie Flores. Emily Austin and Emily McMullan both added points by kills while Casey Harris and Terrah Macon kept the Eagles in hand with defensive efforts.

The Shorthorn "B" team were also victorious. After fighting from behind in game one, Johnnye Michael, Ariel Coalson, Nicole Reed, and Samantha Swagerty all contributed points by ace serving or offensive kills. Jessi

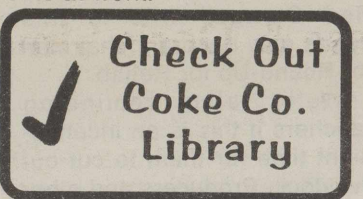
England, Miranda Parks, and Lora Martinez were defensive standouts.

The Lady Shorthorns will be back in action on Monday, September 15 against Veribest in Bronte.

Bronte Longhorn Radio up and running

Bronte Longhorn Radio on 88.5 FM is now up and running. Longhorn Radio is created and broadcast from the multi-media class taught by Lisa Gibbs and Ron Cooper at Bronte High School. The mission of the station is to play music, keep the listening audience informed about events around the community and school, and most of all, creates a learning experience for the students in the field of communications and radio.

The music type will vary, and we ask that you please be patient with us while we develop our programs and equipment. Be sure to tune in every day at noon for your local news Monday thru Friday. Longhorn Radio will be broadcasting the homecoming football game against the Rotan Yellowhammers so tune in at 7:30. Spread the word that Longhorn Radio is broadcast on 88.5 FM. We hope you will tune in and enjoy a mix of music and listen to our high school students at work.



The Coke County Library Story Hour began Tuesday, September 9th. Each Tuesday at 10:00 am, the library is the scene of a program for three to five year old children. The program includes a story, a small project, and video and treat time. Children throughout the county are welcome to this program. Parents, grandparents and care-givers are also welcome to attend and help out or just watch.

The library has received some generous book donations recently. A substantial collection of classic science fiction books has been received. Science fiction readers will find some of their favorite authors in this collection. Other books include general fiction and romance books. These books are



Trish Rowe leads the first Coke County Library Story Hour for 2003. The children met Tuesday morning, September 9, for a story, a small project, and video. They also enjoyed treat time. The program is for children from three to five years of age and is held at the Coke County Library on Tuesday mornings at 10 am.

available for viewing anytime. The donations are very much appreciated.

Library hours are Tuesdays, 8-12; Wednesdays, 8-4; Thursdays, 1-5; and Fridays, 8-12. Story Hour is Tuesday at 10:00. Head Start Story Time will be Wednesdays, at 9:30 am. As always adults who need an energy boost are welcome anytime the children have gathered at the library.

School means living with custodial parent

During the school year, children of separated or divorced parents often return to live with the primary custodial parent. "Many custody schedules have the children live with one parent during the school year," says Webster Watnik, author of Child Custody Made Simple, and visit the other parent on weekends." Watnik explains that this arrangement is designed to give the children a stable school life and avoid constant moves.

"If both parents live in the same school district or are close, the children can move back-and-forth more often," says Watnik. "But frequent exchanges require a high level of cooperation." Watnik points out that expecting such cooperation between parents who could not stay together may not be realistic.

"In twelve years of dealing with single parents," says Watnik, "I've consistently seen the same thing. The custodial parent complains about the parenting skills of the non-custodial parent, and the non-custodial parent complains about being cut-off from the children. And the children always want to remain connected to both parents."

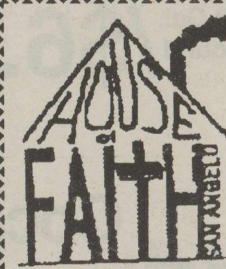
In Child Custody Made Simple Watnik offers advice to

separated or divorced parents coping with the imbalance of a school year custody schedule.

Custodial parents should involve non-custodial parent - Custodial parents have a lot of authority with the children, and it's easy to "forget" the other parent. Watnik recommends resisting this inclination. "As annoying as it is, it's worth it to keep the non-custodial parent involved with the children during the school year." Watnik recommends sending copies of school papers to the non-custodial parent and suggesting that the non-custodial parent meet with the teachers. "Of course," says Watnik, "if the non-custodial parent has 'dropped out' of the children's lives, there is nothing you can do. But you are a role model for your children, and you can be very sure they are watching everything you do."

Non-custodial parents should encourage regular contact - For non-custodial parents, the situation is reversed. During the school year, the children will be involved with school, their friends, their classes, and extracurricular activities. Non-custodial parents may discover that their scheduled time is not as important to the children as these other activities. "Be realistic," says Watnik. "At a certain age, you will not be as important as their friends." Watnik recommends simple strategies to overcome the reduced daily contact include phone calls, emails or writing letters (if the children are older), and volunteering at school.

Child Custody Made Simple ordered directly from Single Parent Press, phone: (909) 624-6058.



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ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS

Steers battle Menard

by Tom Sawyer
1st half

The Steers went to the Jackets home turf Friday night for their second non-district game. Turnovers in the game were costly but the Steers offense and defense fought a great fight. The Jackets scored on an 18 yard touchdown pass in the second quarter. Steers 0 - Menard 7.

3rd quarter

Third quarter action started with the Steers deep in their own end of the field and after a safety by the Jackets, they led by nine points. Two more touchdown passes in the quarter by Menard, to end the 3rd. Steers 0 - Menard 23.

4th quarter

The Jackets opened the quarter with another touchdown pass. The Steers marched down the field and scored when Brian Abalos took it in for the touchdown from the one yard line and then scored the 2 point conversion. Menard scored on another touchdown pass as the game was winding down. Steers 8 - Menard - 37.

Everyone come out and see The Steers for Homecoming against Garden City. Go Get'em Steers!!!

RL Sports Boosters

The Robert Lee Sports Boosters will meet every Tuesday following the Friday football game at 7:00 pm at the high school. Junior High & High school films will be shown.

Senior Steer Pass

Any interested Senior Citizen may receive a Senior Steer Pass at the Robert Lee ISD Central Office. These passes will allow Senior Citizens to enter Steer Football games without charge. See Mona Mathers at the Central Office. Senior Steer Passes from previous years will be accepted.

RLHS Homecoming slated

Robert Lee High School Homecoming will be September 12th. There will be a parade through downtown Robert Lee beginning at 2:00. The community



Breakfast

- Monday, Sept. 15**
Juice, pancake on stick, cereal, milk
- Tuesday, Sept. 16**
Juice, pop tart, cereal, milk
- Wed., Sept. 17**
Juice, pigs in blanket, cereal, milk
- Thurs., Sept. 18**
Juice, cinnamon roll, cereal, milk
- Friday, Sept. 19**
Juice, muffin, cereal, milk

Lunch

- Monday, Sept. 15**
BBQ ribs, corn, broccoli & cheese, sliced bread, peaches, milk
- Tuesday, Sept. 16**
Grilled cheese sandwich, pickles, tator tots, fresh fruit, milk
- Wed., Sept. 17**
Chicken spaghetti, salad, carrots, roll, pineapple, milk
- Thurs., Sept. 18**
Fajitas, salad, chili beans, mandarin oranges, milk
- Friday, Sept. 19**
BBQ on bun, pickles, chips, pork & beans, applesauce, milk

is invited to participate in the parade with floats or other entries. This year's theme will be "Spotlight on the Steers".

The parade will end at the high school where a pep rally will be held at 2:50. The football game against the Garden City Bearkats will begin at 8:00 pm.

Driftwood will be acting as DJ at the RLHS Homecoming Dance at the Rec Hall in Robert Lee following the football game.

The homecoming celebration will also offer the opportunity to host the RLHS Class of 1953 50th reunion.

RLHS Class of 1953 Reunion

by Jeffie Roberts

The Robert Lee High School class of 1953 will hold their 50th Class Reunion, September 12 and 13, 2003. The class will build a float and participate in the Homecoming Parade at 2:00 Friday. Part of the class will be riding in a 1953 Chevrolet automobile driven by classmate, Bobby Roberts. The 1953 Chevrolet belongs to Dan Laughter of Abilene (husband of Sue Parker, a 1961 graduate of RLHS). The class will attend the Pep Rally at 2:50 at the school, then gather in the high school library for visitation (friends and relatives are invited to visit with them at this time), tour the school and attend the RLHS Junior Class Mexican Dinner Pile-On at 5:30.

Members and spouses of the class will attend the football game, Robert Lee vs: Garden City at 8:00 pm. The class will be introduced just prior to the game as they stand on the track in front of the stadium.

Saturday, September 13, 2003, class members and spouses will have a full day of activities in the home of classmate Annelie (Simpson) Vick and husband, Bill, in San Angelo.

Those with reservations to attend all or some of the activities are: Billie Dove (Allen) and Wallace Ross, Jennie Lee (Burns) and Roy Tinkler, Marjorie (Calvert) Bollier, Bill Carwile and Patsy (Hennington) Carwile, Garland and Rose Marie Davis, Willie Fay (Gaines) and Jesse Eads, Elmer and Lillie Greathouse, Raymond and Pat Gunnells, Bill and Judy Havins, Joyce (King) and Bobby Walker, Wilbert Lee, W.T. and Betty Sue McAdams, Sam and June Plumlee, Bobby and Jeffie Roberts, Annelie (Simpson) and Bill Vick, Eileen (Vaughan) Watson, Margaret (Watkins) Fulks, Milburn Wink, Rheta (Beaver) Osborne, Melba (Rives) Mauldin, Dale and Sue Wojtek, Stanley and Christy Adams, and LaRue (Walker) Robertson, widow of classmate Wilton Robertson.

RL cross country team results

The Robert Lee varsity girls placed 8th in the Water Valley Cross County Meet held on September 6th. Team members and individual placing are as follows: Monica Rodriguez - 26th -

16:33; Michele Sanchez - 31st - 16:49; Rachel Wallace - 55th - 18:34; Andra Braswell - 59th - 18:43; Sarah Phillely - 62nd - 18:51.

JV girls, Julie Riley and Kayli Dickey also participated.

For the varsity boys, it was Chris Torres placing 21st with a time of 22:24.

Also for the Jr. high girls, it was Lacie Sheridan at 14:20 and Jr. high boys placing were Joshua Gallegos with a time of 9:42 and Michael Rodriguez with 14:57.

Dogies host Menard

The Dogies hosted Menard Thursday, (9-4), to start their 2003 football season. Robert Lee kicked off to begin the game and Menard returned it to their own 40. After 3 plays, they punted to the Dogies 26. The Dogies then had a nice drive that ended with a 4 yard run for the score by Landry Gunter. The kick after failed so the Dogies led 6-0. Menard started their next possession at their 34 following the kickoff. They then went for it on 4th and 3 from their 41 but were held by the Dogies defense. Then 2 plays later Brody Dillard ran it in from 22 yards out for a TD. Josh Gallegos scored on the 2 point PAT to make it 14-0 Dogies.

Menard's next possession started on their 32, but after a bad snap on 4th down, the Dogies took over at Menard's 35. The offense then drove to Menard's 10 but stalled and Menard took over. Again the Dogies held and on 4th, Dustin Moreno got a hand on the punt and the Dogies took over on Menard's 14. On the first play, however, they fumbled and Menard recovered. They then drove to the Dogies 39 as the half ended.

The Dogies received the kickoff in the second half and returned it to the 44. They started once again with a good drive when Brody again scored with a nice 19 yard run around right end. Kick failed, 20-0.

Menard's next drive started at their 29 but they were forced to punt and Josh Gallegos returned it 65 yards for a touchdown, kick failed, to make it 26-0.

Next Menard started on their 20 and drove it to the Dogies 40 before Chase Roe recovered a fumble to stop the drive on our 42.

They the Dogies on downs and took over at their 48, but Josh intercepted a pass on 1st down and returned it 20 yards to their 40 with 8 seconds left. Final score, 26-0, Dogies.

Stompin' Steer Band Calendars

It's time to strike up the band! The Stompin' Steer Band will be selling band calendars door-to-door Tuesday, September 16, from 6:30 until 8:00 pm.

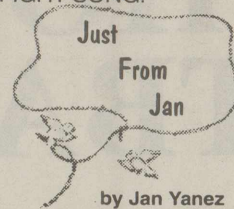
The calendars are \$5.00 each which includes four (4) listings for community activities, birthdays, anniversaries, and memorials. Additional listings will be .50 each.

You may prepay on Tuesday or

wait until the calendars come in. If for some reason your house is missed or you are not home, feel free to contact one of the band members.

Calendar sales are used for concert fees, band trips and meals throughout the year. Memberships to support the Stompin' Steer Band are available for \$5.00 a person or \$10.00 a family.

Please support the band - what would a pep rally be without the band or the BIG touchdown without the FIGHT SONG!



by Jan Yanez
Cooperative
Extension Agent

The right start

Eating a healthy breakfast is easy - and it can help keep your weight in check and lower your cancer risk.

Remember the saying, "Breakfast is the most important meal of the day"? Some researchers are looking at the importance of breakfast as one possible way to control Americans' increasing problem with overweight and obesity. A number of studies from the National Weight Control Registry show that people who successfully maintain a significant weight loss eat breakfast just about every day.

But what you choose to eat for breakfast is the real deciding factor of how to help your health. Plenty of fruits and even vegetables in an egg white omelet can contribute toward your minimum of five daily servings to lower cancer risk.

Breaking the Fast --After fasting all night, breakfast can kick-start your energy level. A morning meal of healthful, slow-burning foods such as whole grains and fruit can control your appetite until midday, making you less likely to overeat. Studies show that people who do not eat breakfast tend to make up for the calories later in the day, often with whatever convenience food is nearby instead of healthier choices.

Eating breakfast increases the metabolic - or calorie-burning - rate. Skipping breakfast has the opposite effect, slowing the metabolic rate, leaving you with less energy later in the day and making weight control harder.

Sugary pastries or cereals for breakfast can have a similar effect. High sugar foods may cause your energy level to soar briefly, but then it probably will fall to lower levels.

To bypass the sweets for whole-

grain breads and cereals (with low sugar content), fresh or canned fruits (in unsweetened juice), and even foods that are not usually served for breakfast, such as vegetable soup or a bean spread. These foods will give you longer-lasting energy.

In fact, breakfast presents a perfect opportunity to get more servings of whole grains and fruits, staples of a cancer-preventive, plant-based diet. Look for whole grain cereals with 3-4 grams of fiber or more per serving. Count in 1 or 2 servings of fruit, and you're on your way to getting the daily recommended 5-10 servings of vegetables and fruits, and the minimum of 3 servings of whole grains recommended by USDA.

Breakfast on the Go -- Stock your pantry with healthful ingredients like oatmeal, whole-wheat bread, wheat germ, nuts and canned or dried fruit. Visit a health food store and buy some flaxseed, an excellent source of omega - 3 fatty acid for mixing into lowfat cereal, yogurt, cottage cheese and smoothies. Foods like these can help you resist the temptation to grab a doughnut or pastry. Some other quick and healthful breakfast meals are:

*A breakfast parfait layered with nonfat or low-fat yogurt, fresh fruit and cereal, nuts or raisins

*Low-fat yogurt mixed with fresh fruit in a blender for a vitamin-rich smoothie

*Whole-wheat toast with a dab of peanut butter and banana slices

*Instant oatmeal or whole-grain cold cereal topped with raisins or fresh fruit and low-fat regular or soy milk

*Fish, such as leftover salmon, with a whole-grain bagel and reduced or nonfat cream cheese

*Your own homemade bran or fruit and nut muffins made on the weekend and stored in the freezer

Youth and tobacco

Did you know that nicotine is as addictive as alcohol, cocaine, and heroin? Cigarette smoking is the most common form of drug addiction causing more death and disease than other addictions combined.

It is also proven that the younger a person starts to smoke the more likely they are to become addicted to nicotine, and 40% of teenagers who smoke daily have tried to quit and failed.

If you haven't started - stay smart. If you already smoke and would like to quit, there are places to get help. For more information, call the Mesquite Country Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (325) 235-8955.

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FRIDAY NIGHT:

ALL YOU CAN EAT CATFISH

All Fixins and Dessert, 16 oz drink of choice (1 Refill)

SATURDAY NIGHT: KC SPECIAL

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RLHS Junior Class Mexican Dinner Pile-On
September 12, 2003
School Cafeteria
5:00-7:00 P.M.
Dine in or take-out only
Adults \$5.00
Children 12 & under \$3.00



Homecoming!

ROBERT LEE STEERS FOOTBALL

				RL
August 29	Cross Plains	Here	8:00	18 20
September 5	Menard	There	8:00	8 37
** September 12	Garden City	Here	8:00	
September 19	Christoval	There	8:00	
September 26	Winters	Here	8:00	
October 3	Open			
* October 10	Roscoe	There	7:30	
* October 17	Miles	There	7:30	
* October 24	Sterling City	Here	7:30	
* October 31	Roby	There	7:30	
* November 7	Bronte	Here	7:30	

* District 15A Games

** Homecoming

Friday,
September 12
8:00 pm
Home

Shaffer Monument
Company
Robert Lee-Silver Lions
Club
Rock Solid
Communications
Roy & Judy Blair
Mountain Creek Lodge
Jackie Walker
West Coke County
Community Development
Skinner's Gro. & Station
Jim & Geanette Skinner
W.E.B. Construction
Edwin, Wyndell & Family
Bell Auto Body Shop
Doug Bell
Ivey Motor Company, Inc.
Robert Lee State Bank
Member FDIC
Ben Bessent Chevrolet
Robert Lee Care Center
Daryl's Body Shop



Wackenhut Corporation
Supports the Steers
Joan Davis
Cracker Barrel Restaurant
Paul Burns
Coke Co. Commissioner Prec. #1
The Best Connection
The Wayland Drennan Family
Ernest Clendennen, Inc.
Storage Rental & Sales & Vacuum Truck Services
Super "H" IGA
Dave & Betty Hughes
Massage by Darrell
D. J.'s Merle
Norman Studio
Debbie McCabe

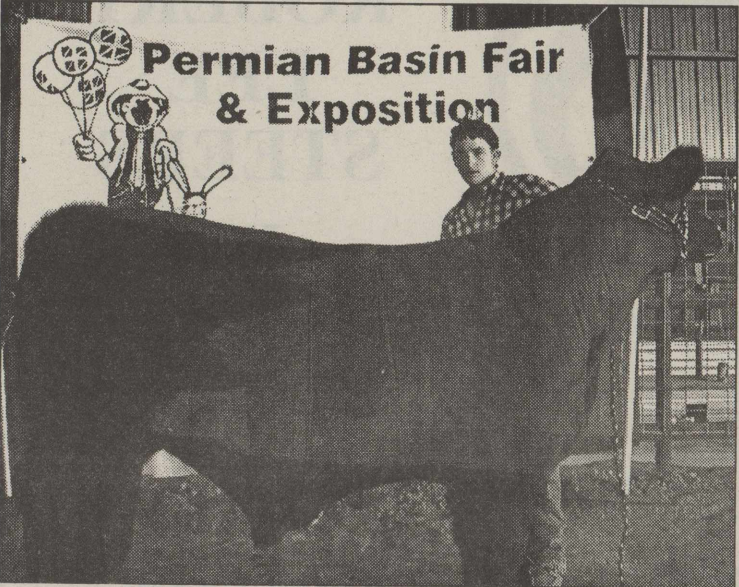
ROBERT
LEE
STEERS
VS.
Garden City
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Handwritten signatures and names:
Coach Senter
Coach Alexander
Kevin #22
Norse Jr.
Walt #5
Evan #10
Braswell
Amanda Thurman #72
Sean B.
Cole #25
Shayne #75
Elease
Vera #68
Shelby Sailer #12
Ruben Torres #62
Torres #3
Bearden
Phillips #96
Tortmanno #64
Chris
Duke #35
Sergio Rocha #79
#61
Coach Koffe
Vincent McGlelland
Coach Hartman
#60
#64



Clay Antilley exhibited the Reserve Champion Chianina steer at the Permian Basin Fair.



Clay Antilley exhibited the Champion ABC steer at the Permian Basin Fair.



Clay Antilley exhibited the Champion Brahman steer at the Permian Basin Fair. He also exhibited the Reserve Champion Chianina steer and the Champion ABC steer at this show. Clay is the son of Tommy and Kei Antilley of Robert Lee.

Plea: 30 days jail, probated 3 mo.
The State of Texas vs: Larry Daniel Hayes
Charge: Driving while intoxicated 1st

Plea: 90 days jail, probated 12 mo. \$1,000 fine, court cost \$251.00, DWI course, 40 hrs. community service
The State of Texas vs: Dustin Lee Labeledelle

Charge: Driving under influence of alcohol
Plea: \$500 fine, court cost \$226.00, 30 hrs. community service

Coke County youth place at Ozona High School Rodeo

Texas High School Rodeo Region II kicked off its 2003-04 season this past weekend with its first of eight rodeos to be held this semester. Ozona was the site for six of Coke County's local students to begin their quest to qualify for the Texas High School Rodeo finals that will be held later in June 2004.

During Saturday's competition sophomore Lance Millican from Robert Lee placed 2nd in the tie-down calf roping. Bronte sophomore, Lillian McMullan placed 2nd in the breakaway roping, 1st place in the goat tying and 8th place in the pole bending events. Bronte senior, Ashley Denton placed 4th in the breakaway roping and 2nd in the goat tying. Robert Lee junior, Jake McCabe placed 3rd in the team roping and Cody McCabe, a freshman, placed 8th in the team roping.

On Sunday, competition began again for the 2nd qualifying rodeo. Natalee Reed, a senior from Bronte won the pole bending event. Lance Millican again placed in the tie-down calf roping, finishing sixth with Cody McCabe finishing in 8th place. Lillian McMullan finished 5th in the breakaway roping and 4th in the goat roping. Jake McCabe finished off his weekend placing 5th in the team roping event. The next qualifying high school rodeo will be held in Ft. Stockton on September 20 & 21.

August Arrests/Charges Filed Court Dispositions

Beau Ellis Boxell - Driving while license suspended - SR - Open container of alcohol in vehicle - 08-01-03

Guenaro Siller Jr. - Driving while intoxicated (1st) - 08-03-03

Lorenzo Cabrera Fuentes - Assault causes bodily injury/Motion to revoke probation - 08-08-03

Lisa Ruiz - Theft by check -

08-11-03

Ashley Brienne Bynum - Possession of controlled substance PG1 <1G - 08-11-03

William Leon Ferguson - Assault causes bodily injury - family member - Motion to revoke probation - 08-14-03

John Darvin Gregston - Indecent exposure - 08-15-03

Carol Jean Christianson - Manufacture/deliver controlled substance PG 1>=4G <2G - Motion to revoke probation - 08-25-03

Coke County Court Dispositions 08-20-03

The State of Texas vs: Jeffery Garlin Trotter
Charge: Possession of dangerous drug
Plea: \$750 fine, \$211 court cost

The State of Texas vs: Nelson Sean Edging
Charge: Possession of marijuana <2oz.
Plea: Pre-Trial Intervention 6 Months

The State of Texas vs: Laura Nicole Diaz
Charge: Possession of marijuana <2oz.
Plea: 12 mo. Deferred Adjudication, \$400 fine, \$201 court cost, 40 hours community service

Coke County Court Dispositions 08-28-03

The State of Texas vs: Nelda Kay Hart
Charge: Possession of marijuana <2oz.
Plea: 30 days jail, probated 12 mo., \$300 fine, court cost \$236.00, 40 hours community service

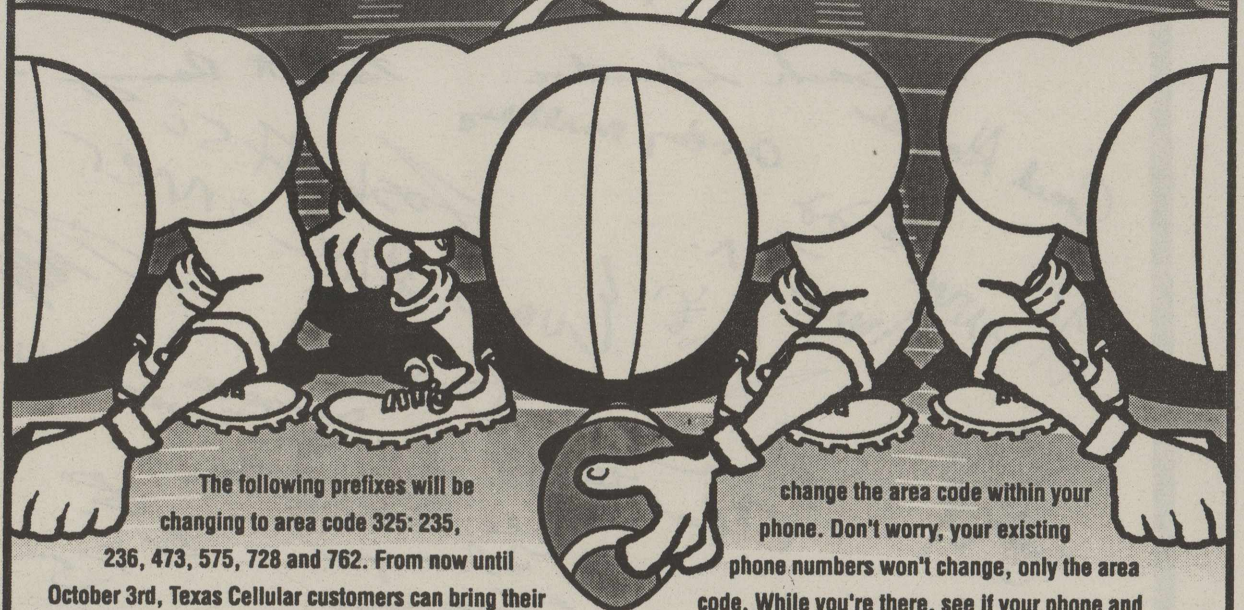
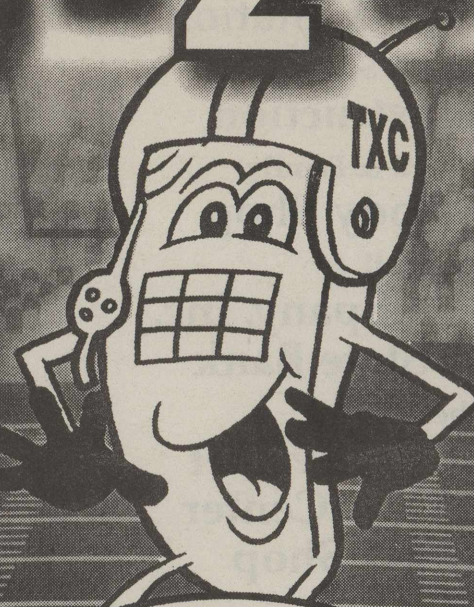
The State of Texas vs: Dwayne Allen Netting
Charge: Driving while intoxicated
Plea: 60 days jail, probated 12 mo. \$1,000 fine, \$251.00 court cost, 40 hrs. community service, DWI school

The State of Texas vs: Melissa Boyd Laird
Charge: Driving while license suspended/SR

HERE'S THE BIG PLAY

hut **3** hut **2** hut **5!**

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IN SWEETWATER: 1113 Lamar 325-235-2853
Sierra Communications • 1901 Bristol
325-235-4377 • Open M-F, 9 to 5

Reasons to ride a cutting horse

by Heather Raftery

[Editor's Note: This article was first published in the September 2003 issue of the Cutting Horse Chatter and was submitted by Jake McCabe. Jake is a junior at Robert Lee High School and recently won his region and was the reserve champion for the state in the cutting division of the Texas High School Rodeo Association.]

Throughout my life, I have been plagued with the question, "What is cutting?" It isn't that I mind answering time and again, but I never really know what to say. Sure, I know the mechanics of it pretty well, but I can never fully describe how I feel when riding a cutting horse or why I return day after day, sometimes bruised both physically and mentally. There aren't any words that can possibly do it justice. The only thing I can honestly say about it is that after feeling that certain magic that occurs between a cutting horse and its rider just once, you come to want it, to need it, the rest of your life.

Perhaps one of the foremost reasons for this is because riding a cutting horse is one of the most thrilling experiences in the world. Every time you step out there into the show pen, no matter how experienced you are, your heart will start beating a little faster and your breath will come a little shorter, in profound expectation of what that next run will bring. Your horse's ear will flick back and you'll force yourself to relax, to think, to focus, and you'll step into that herd hoping beyond all hope that you don't mess your cut up. Then when you get one out, everything seems to fall away, but you, your horse, the cow and your heartbeat. Then everything will begin: the cow will dash, stop, dash the other way, stop; your horse will mirror that cow, drag its hind end in the sand, come through itself to stop that cow; and you, you will just keep out of his way as you try to sit in those stops, read the cow, and, when you need to, send your horse. But basically you would just try to manage to stay on the mass of exploding muscle beneath you. Then when that buzzer goes off, and you're still alive, you won't be able to keep the smile from your face, nor your heart from beating a million miles per hour, for those mere 2 1/1 minutes of adrenaline.

There are no words in the English language to describe cutting in its entirety, but perhaps the closest would be "insanely addictive." There is nothing more addictive than riding a good cutting horse. There are those few moments in your cutting career when you are in front of a cow in the middle of a run and you feel that you and your horse are no longer separate; you are one, sharing one mind, one body, in perfect sync with each other. It's when everything is clear and natural and simple, just you, your horse, and the cow. Once you have felt that, once you have lived that, you want it and need it, again. Then it's not whether or not you win or lose, whether or not you are the world champion or the biggest failure, but whether or not you ever find that zone again, whether or not you ever feel that again.

One of the most profound reasons to get involved with cutting horses is that a cutting horse becomes a part of you. My family has moved a lot during my life (partly because my dad is a

horse trainer and "trainer" and "moving" are synonymous with each other), so the only constants in my life have been my family and my horses. Thus, my horses (and those client's horses I've come to love as my own) are very important parts of my family, of my life, and of myself. I love them more than anything in the world and every day I thank God for such wondrous gifts. Because once you have come to know cutting horses, when you come to love them, to trust them, to respect them, when you come to know each of their own unique personalities, they become more than just horses to you. They become individuals; they become a part of your life, your family; they become the reasons to get up every morning and live life like it was meant to be lived.

Everything in life has its ups and downs. Unfortunately, the horse-world is no exception. A life of having and riding cutting horses is full of moments of intense brilliance and moments of terrible heartache, but every moment can never ever be called a waste. When life gets rough, when you feel lost and insignificant in the world, you will always have that memory: that one moment when you and your horse were the greatest in the world. No one will ever be able to take that from you.

Out of County Warrants Served

Fred Alton Sales - Issue bad check - Child support - Bexar County Warrant - 08-07-03

Juveniles Handled Through Sheriff's Office

Runaway - 13 year old male - 08-10-03

51st District Court Disposition 08-26-03

The State of Texas vs: Nelda Kay Hart
Charge: Driving while intoxicated 3rd or more
Plea: 6 years Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice probated 6 years, \$1,000 fine, 10 days county jail

Saving ourselves from obesity

by Eduardo J. Sanchez, M.D.
Commissioner,
Texas Department of Health

The warnings come every day now: Obesity is now linked possibly to the development of Alzheimer's. A million kids already have developed cardiovascular problems. Two out of three Americans are overweight or obese and, soon, 70 percent will be. The cost of treating obesity and obesity-related health problems is about \$123 billion per year at a time when costs for taking care of our senior citizens is also increasing. Obesity is linked to about 63 million doctor visits every year.

Few of us in public policy anticipated this problem 20 years ago. Yet the threat is real for millions of Americans who will suffer the torment of illnesses engendered by obesity. The threat is real for all of society-not

just for those who are overweight-because obesity will soon put the medical-care system at risk.

What are we to do?

The wave of obesity that will surely sink us if we do nothing did not appear overnight, and nothing can be gained from blaming anyone. Almost every facet of society bears some responsibility for the crisis that we now recognize as a serious threat to America itself.

The first step is to make sure that everyone knows that a direct link between obesity and disease and illness exists. As a medical doctor and as the state's commissioner of health, I am not sure that everyone understands the connection. If you are overweight or becoming obese, the chances increase that you will develop diabetes, which can cause blindness, the loss of limbs and a host of other ailments, none of them subtle.

An overweight or obese person also increases his or her chances of developing cancer. And the chances of developing a bad heart. And high blood pressure. And depression. It used to be that being overweight was a cause for mirth and humor. Not these days. Being overweight is a cause for serious concern: It shortens life.

Effective public-awareness campaigns are critical. Yet addressing the problem of over-eating and lack of exercise will not be as easy as it was to address smoking or drunk driving. Ordinances against smoking and laws against driving drunk result in penalties and fines. In their absence, it will be harder to convince individuals to reform their personal eating habits and to engage in physical activity.

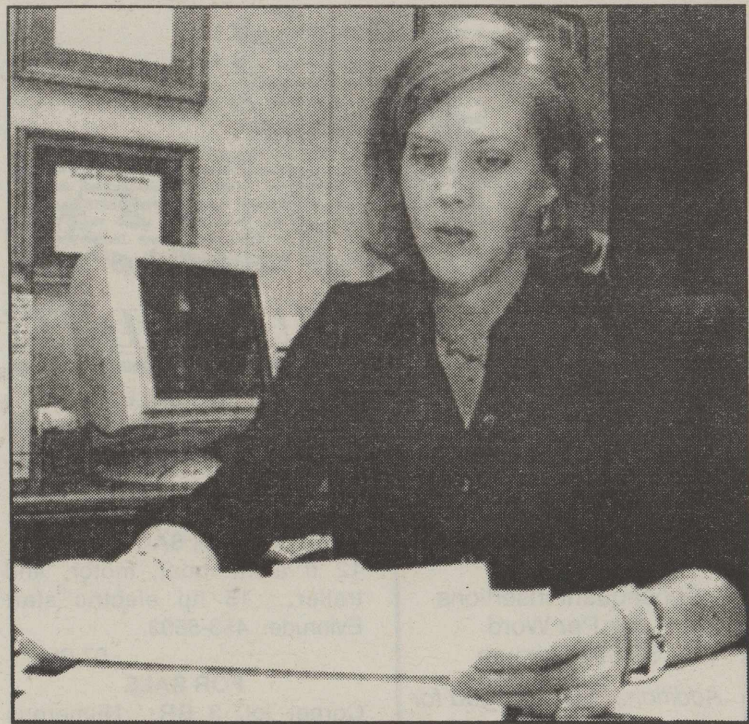
The effectiveness of getting the message about the link between obesity and illness is a central concern because, by far, many more Americans are overweight and obese than there are smokers or drivers who drive drunk.

The second step involves concentrating on school-age children who are now developing their life-long eating and exercise habits. More than enough opportunities exist for local school districts, parents, local officials and leaders to make their contributions in the fight against obesity by making sure that instruction on good nutrition and physical activity are incorporated into a daily school curriculum and practiced at home.

We should be able to turn our schools into places where children can learn habits early that will avert the dangers of obesity. If we can do that, we can look back at the current obesity threat as only the temporary bulge in the snake that ate the horse.

If we fail, history may look back on these days as the time when we did not act to prevent an obvious threat. And when our much-vaunted medical care system broke down. And when we turned our backs on our seniors.

And on our children's future.



Stephanie Howard, assistant principal at Midland Lee High School, looks through paperwork. Ms. Howard was recently named "Assistant Principal of the Year" by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals. Photo by Tim Fischer, Reporter Telegram.

Howard named "Principal of the Year"

Stephanie Poehls Howard has recently been named "Assistant Principal of the Year" by the Region 18 Texas Association of Secondary School Principals. She also serves as Instructional Services Director for Midland Lee High School. She believes she was honored and nominated by someone during a TASSP conference in Austin where she chaired the All State Academic Committee. There are twenty educational regions in Texas, and by virtue of her Region 18 honor, she is eligible to compete for state honors.

Archie McAfee, TASSP executive director, says almost 5,000 administrators are involved in the association and feels Stephanie's honor is well deserved.

Stephanie has been with the Midland School District for five years. Before moving to Lee High School, she served as assistant principal at Midland Freshman High School.

She has roots in education; Stephanie is a 1991 RLHS graduate, the daughter of Joan and Edward Poehls. He coached the Steers for 20 years before his retirement and move to Wingate.

Stephanie went on to attend Tarleton State University and graduated later from ASU in 1995 with a BA degree. She acquired her Masters Degree in 2000 from the University of Texas Permian Basin in Odessa

with her Administrative Education certificate.

On a more personal note, Stephanie and her husband, Jimmy Howard, are expecting their first child this fall. Jimmy is a fire marshal in Midland.

Erasing the Stigma of Mental Illness

Well-known journalist, author and speaker Kathy Cronkite will be the keynote speaker at a luncheon hosted by the Betty Hardwick Center on September 24 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Abilene Civic Center. Ms. Cronkite is one of thousands who suffers from depression. She will lecture on "Erasing the Stigma of Mental Illness".

On the same date at the Civic Center, Joel Slack, executive director of Respect International, will conduct a five-hour seminar entitled "RESPECT". Registration for the seminar is from 8:00 to 8:30 am. Due to the sensitive nature of Mr. Slack's presentation, participants are asked to be on time, turn off cell phones, and turn pagers to the silent mode. Continuing education credits are being offered for Social Work and LPC. The seminar will end at 11:30 in order for participants to attend the Kathy Cronkite luncheon. The seminar will begin again at 2:00 pm, and will end at 4:00 pm.

RSVP deadline is September 17. Call 325-690-5105 for registration information and cost for luncheon and seminar.

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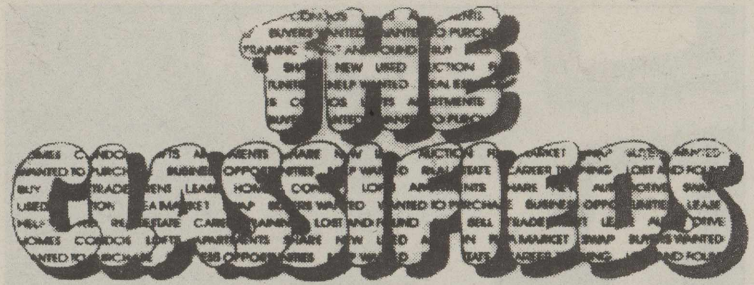
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 All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or 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 or children under 18.
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STOMPIN' STEER BAND CALENDARS
 The Stompin' Steer Band will be selling band calendars, door to door, on Tuesday, Sept. 16th from 6:30 until 8:00 pm. 08-1tc
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GARAGE SALES
RL EASTERN STAR GARAGE/BAKE SALE
 Dolores Roe home, edge of Robert Lee on the Sterling City Highway. Saturday, September 20, 2003, 8:00 am until ?. (no early sales). 08-2tc
HUGE ESTATE SALE
 in Bronte Saturday across from Town & Country. Starts 8:00 am. 08-1tp

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 New Listing Office Exclusive. 3 BR, 3 BA, 2570 +/- sq. ft., Spacious Kitchen and Dining Area, Hardwood Floors, Fireplace, Beautiful Yard with Large Trees, Detached 17' x 17' finished game room
 Priced to Sell, 4 BR, 2 bath, large den with second living area. CA/CH over 2100 sq. ft.
 Price reduced, 2 BR, 1 bath, CA/CH, sunroom or 3rd BR, large kitchen, single garage, over 1800 sf
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 Ceramic tile, sundeck, guest quarters.
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 1022 +/- Acres, Excellent hunting, rolling terrain located in a mountainous area. Some live oak trees, 3 water wells, 1 dirt surface tank, 1 large barn with electricity
 315 +/- AC. with 1/2 Mile of Colorado River frontage, 4 Stock Tanks, Pens and Barn. Choice Hunting.
 314 +/- AC. Live Oak trees on Yellow Wolf Creek, good water well, 230 ac. cultivation, good hunting.
 248 +/- AC. Highway frontage, good water well, pens, 81 ac. CRP income, good dirt tank.
 147 +/- AC. All Pasture. Convenient to Robert Lee. Flat to rolling terrain. Good hunting.
 130 +/- AC. Convenient to Bronte. 3 BR, 2 BA home with 30x40 Shop.
 80 +/- Acres, Very nice ranch style home with 3 BR, 2 BA 2 Living Areas. All Steel Horse and Cattle Pens. 3 Large Barns.

Other Listings Available

CARD OF THANKS
MERE WORDS ARE INADEQUATE
 to express our gratitude to everyone who shared our sorrow during the loss of our loved one. To each and everyone who helped us through these days of grief with beautiful plants and flowers, food, words of sympathy and messages of kindness, we can only say thank you so much.
 The family of Sondra "Sandy" Hester
 08-1tc

CARD OF THANKS
 We would like to thank everyone who offered prayers, condolences, assistance, and mostly, your friendship, during the past several months. We would like to especially thank Lorrie Martin, Darrell Phillips, the Robert Lee Baptist Church, and the coordinator and participants of the benefit golf tournament.
 Taylor was a very special young man, and he would have been proud to have been blessed by your overwhelming generosity.
 The Family of Taylor Oakland
 08-1tp

MEET THE STEERS NIGHT
 was a great success! A Special Thank You to the following:
 Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Abalos, Mr. & Mrs. Van Braswell, Mr. & Mrs. Vic Conner, Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Conner, Mr. & Mrs. Reys Cruz, Mr. & Mrs. C.V. Eaton, Mr. & Mrs. Rocky Heffernan, Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Munoz, Mr. & Mrs. Lindsey Wallace, Super H Grocery - Mr. & Mrs. Dave Hughes.
 08-1tc

NOTICES
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF INDIGENT HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE
 West Coke County Hospital District of Robert Lee, TX, will provide from October 1, 2003 to September 30, 2004 Indigent Health Care services to all eligible persons who meet the Hospital District eligibility requirements. Any resident of WCCHD is eligible to apply for these services. Eligibility criteria includes household composition, income and other available resources. Supporting documentation is required for all components of eligibility. Eligibility for Indigent Health Care services will be limited to persons who can prove residency in the WCCHD and whose

family income meets the criteria of the current poverty income guidelines established by the Texas Department of Health as shown to be effective May 2003. Application for this program can be made at the business office of the Robert Lee Care Center. This notice is made in compliance with the plan administration for annual public notification of service availability. 08-1tc

TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS IN COKE COUNTY
 From The Authorized Agent Program for On-site waste water systems for Coke County.
 1. By law, all septic systems being installed in Coke County must be permitted regardless of acreage, as of Nov. 2002.
 2. By law, all septic systems must be installed by licensed Installer/Site Evaluator.
 3. At this time there is no practicing licensed Installer/Site Evaluator in Coke County.
 07-4tc

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Don't Forget To VOTE
Saturday September 13 in the Constitutional Amendments Election!



Private Christopher Long

Long stationed in Baghdad

Christopher Ivon Long is stationed in Saddam's palace in Baghdad. He is the son of Vicky Calzada of Brenham and Rishard Long of Sweetwater. His grandparents are Ivon and Iris Conner of Robert Lee and the late Melba and Otho Long of Robert Lee. Other relatives include his sister Chrystal of Brenham and numerous relatives in Coke County.

This letter was received by e-mail from his wife Becky living in Germany and she forwarded it to us the same way. As noted, it was published in an Army newspaper called the "Bulldog Battery Pride" and written by his commanding officer.

Howdy, Bulldog families!

This has been a very wonderful week for the Bulldog Battery. We have two heroes in the battery, soldiers are getting promoted, there is a VTC coming soon, and we had a really great sports day.

First and most importantly, Bravo Battery has two soldiers that were awarded the Army Commendation Medal today for their heroic acts while they were on duty four days ago. Specialist Peralez and Private First Class Long were at an Observation Post watching over the perimeter of Baghdad International Airport when they responded to a cry for help from Iraqi civilians on the far side of the wall. There were four Iraqi children on the other side of the wall that were very seriously wounded after they had been playing with an unexploded bomb left over from the ground war. The bomb exploded as they were playing with it and caused horrible injuries to the kids. Our soldiers bounded over the twelve foot wall, brought the children to our side, and performed such wonderful medical aid that the doctors credit SPC Peralez and PFC Long with saving the lives of the kids. Those children, along with their parents, are now at a US military hospital being cared for. What a wonderful story.

Finally, the battalion had another sports day and the Bulldogs had a chance to compete in soccer, football, volleyball, and softball. Unfortunately, we didn't bring home the gold this time, but we have our sights set on winning all of the events in the next competition in October. Our handicap today was caused by us coming off the checkpoints an hour after the games had started. The soldiers were all very tired from the 24 hour duty, but we still gave it our all and gave the other batteries something to fear next month.

What's happening at the Palace? Well, our air conditioners were installed this week by civilian contractors, but there still has not been a contract for generators to power all of the coolers. These air conditioners are so powerful that we turned one on to test and it blew out our generator! The power unit is fixed now, and the air conditioners are all mounted on the wall,

non-operational, and taunting us. The soldiers are joking that the battalion should start purchasing heaters as soon as possible! The lake is getting filled up! Army engineers have been clearing the canals that lead to our dry lake. For the past week water has been rushing in and raising the water level. Some fish can be seen in the water, and it will probably be another two weeks until the water level is at a respectable height.

The battalion is setting up a recreation room in the palace for all of the soldiers to use. There is already a marble pool table, two ping pong tables, and four Playstations are on the way. There is a book sharing library, and a projector that will show television shows on AFN. Each battery is suppose to be getting an AFN decoder before football season starts. The batteries are scheduled to receive two decoders and two televisions. Hopefully that equipment will be in by the end of September.

That concludes my update. I am really proud of our heroes, promotees, and we are looking forward to the VTC on Wednesday! More information will follow as soon as possible! Take Care!

Very Respectfully,
Scott M Dellinger
CPT, AD - Commanding

Many consumers upside down on car note

With the average new car sticker price at almost \$30,000, consumers are taking out larger loans to cover their appetites for larger cars. As a result, some people are finding it harder to make their payments each month and they are finding themselves without options to unload the car without taking a loss.

"As soon as you drive your new car off the lot it's worth a lot less than the loan you just signed," said Steve Rhode, president and co-founder of Myvesta.org, a non-profit financial management organization. "As a result, many people who are having trouble making their payments are upside down on their loans and can't sell the car or trade it in without still owing thousands of dollars."

When a consumer is "upside down" on an auto loan it means that the amount they owe on the loan is more than the actual value of the vehicle.

"Over the past few years dealers have been luring in buyers with incentives such as zero percent financing and longer loan terms," Rhode said. "As a result of these tactics, dealers haven't been coming down on the total price of their cars as much, and consumers are owing more on their vehicles for longer period of times. We've recently seen advertisements for 94 month auto financing."

Rhode recommends these tips if you are upside down on an auto loan and having trouble making the payments:

*Find someone to make your payments. Instead of selling the car or trading it in, see if your lender will allow someone else to take over your loan.

*Consider refinancing if you are having trouble making payments. A lower rate or longer term may make your monthly payment more affordable.

*Negotiate with your lender to forgive all or part of the difference of your loan if you can make a lump sum payment after the sale of your vehicle.

If you are having trouble keeping up with your car payments, read the Myvesta.org publication "When You Can't Make Your Vehicle Payments." It can be downloaded free from Myvesta.org.

Funds established at Robert Lee State Bank

Funds have been set up for Taylor Oakland and his mother, Heather Randolph. Those wishing to donate to this fund are asked to contact Robert Lee State Bank concerning the special checking account in the name of Heather Randolph for Taylor Oakland.

A savings account has been set up for Janie Gloria at RLSB under - Ruth Minjarez Special. Mrs. Gloria is undergoing treatment for her liver. She is in need of a transplant.

Siren warning signals

Tornado sirens for the City of Robert Lee are: 3 long blast is a public warning to take immediate shelter. If a tornado is spotted, or the city is in imminent danger of Severe Weather or very large hail, the fire department members, who are also the Skywarn Team, and are out checking the skies, are in contact with the National Weather Bureau, and they will set off the siren. 3 long blasts of the siren is the signal to take shelter, preferable a sturdy building, storm cellar or interior room or hall. 1 long blast of the siren will signal the all clear.

The fire department utilizes the sirens, when there is a fire or meeting. 2 blasts of the siren is a call for firemen to assemble at the station.

Social Security news

by Fredi Franki
Social Security Manager
San Angelo Office

Social Security is a vital program that touches the lives of almost everyone in the country. In part because of its size and in part because of its national impact, there are many myths and misunderstandings about the program.

Myth: My Social Security benefits will be based on my last three years of earnings. Fact: Social Security retirement benefits are based on a lifetime of earnings. To figure your benefit, we will add up your highest 35 years of earnings after adjusting each year for inflation. Then we will divide by 420 (the number of months in 35 years) to come up with your average inflation-adjusted monthly wage. Then we apply a formula that replaces a percentage of that monthly wage with a Social Security benefit. Assuming you earn an average income, your retirement benefit would represent about 40 percent of your pre-retirement earnings.

Myth: I can take my reduced retirement benefits at age 62 and later switch to full retirement benefits at full retirement age.

Fact: If you take an early retirement benefit, you generally will live with a permanent reduction. Your benefit does not increase when you reach your "full retirement age." (A handy chart on our website at www.socialsecurity.gov can tell you what your full retirement age is.) You must decide if you're financially able to live with the reduced benefit for the rest of your life or if you'd be better off waiting until your full retirement age to get a higher monthly rate. A Social Security representative can go over the numbers with you so you can make an informed decision.

Myth: There is a limit to how much a married couple can receive.

Fact: There is no "marriage penalty" with Social Security. As a general rule, nothing prevents each member of a married couple from receiving his or her own Social Security benefit. For example, if a husband has



The San Angelo Warriors fastpitch softball team began their second season May 24 by hosting a round-robin at Lakeview Maiden Field. They ended their season with SAGFA's Midnight Madness held August 10. A total of twenty-nine games were played by the team with 15 wins, 11 losses, and 3 ties. The team placed 3rd at Concho Valley Midnight Bash and participated in the District 26 State Tournament. Julia Cruz (left) of Robert Lee played short stop for the team. She is the daughter of Rey and Sara Cruz. Stacie Conley of San Angelo played catcher for the Warriors. She is the granddaughter of John and Maudie Conley of Robert Lee.

worked and earned a \$1,000 monthly Social Security check, and if his wife has worked and earned a \$1,200 Social Security check, they will each get their full benefit for a total of \$2,200 per month in Social Security benefits.

Myth: If I take my own Social Security benefit, I am always locked into it. If my husband later dies, I cannot switch to a widow's benefit on his record.

Fact: A woman who becomes a widow can switch to benefits on her husband's record if it is to her advantage to do so. (A widower also can make the switch if it pays him more money.)

Life consists not in holding good cards but in playing those you hold well.

—Josh Billings

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2001 Ford F-150 Super Cab 4x4	\$15,995
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<i>Excellent Condition!</i>	

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Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Election to be held Saturday, September 13, 2003.

***AMENDMENT NO. 1:** *The constitutional amendment authorizing the Veterans' Land Board to use assets in certain veterans' land and veterans' housing assistance funds to provide veterans homes for the aged or infirm and to make principal, interest, and bond enhancement payments on revenue bonds.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment would allow the Veterans' Land Board to use excess receipts in the veterans' land fund, the veterans' housing assistance fund, and the veterans' housing assistance fund II to pay the debt service on any revenue bonds issued by the board. Specifically, the board could use those receipts to pay principal and interest and make bond enhancement payments with respect to revenue bonds issued under a veterans homes program or other veterans programs administered by the board, and not solely in connection with its land and housing assistance programs for veterans.

The amendment would also allow the Veterans' Land Board to use excess assets in the three funds to plan and design, operate, maintain, enlarge, or improve veterans homes. This new language would supplement the effect of an earlier constitutional amendment that granted the board similar authority with respect to veterans cemeteries.

***AMENDMENT NO. 2:** *The constitutional amendment to establish a two-year period for the redemption of a mineral interest sold for unpaid ad valorem taxes at a tax sale.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment to Section 130(c), Article VIII, of the Texas Constitution increases the period in which the former owner of a mineral interest that is sold at a tax sale for unpaid ad valorem taxes may redeem the property from the person who purchased it. The redemption period is increased from six months after the date the purchaser's deed is filed for record to two years after that date. To redeem the property, the former owner must pay to the person who purchased the property the amount the purchaser at the tax sale paid for the property, including the tax deed recording fee and all taxes, penalties, interest, and costs paid, plus an amount not exceeding 25 percent of the aggregate total in the first year of the redemption period or 50 percent of the aggregate total in the second year. The proposed amendment to Section 13(d), Article VIII, of the Texas Constitution makes a conforming change.

The amendment takes effect January 1, 2004, and applies only to the redemption of a mineral interest sold at a tax sale for which the purchaser's deed is filed for record on or after January 1, 2004.

***AMENDMENT NO. 3:** *The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation property owned by a religious organization that is leased for use as a school or that is owned with the intent of expanding or constructing a religious facility.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment amends Section 2(a), Article VIII, Texas Constitution, to authorize the legislature by general law to exempt from ad valorem taxation the property owned by a religious organization that also owns a place of religious worship, such as a church or temple, if the property is

owned for the purpose of expanding the place of religious worship or constructing a new place of religious worship and if the property does not produce any revenue for the religious organization. The amendment also authorizes the legislature by general law to provide eligibility limitations for the exemption and to impose sanctions related to the exemption. In addition, the amendment authorizes the legislature by general law to exempt from ad valorem taxation any property owned by a religious organization that is leased to a person for use as a school that meets the statutory definition for a school that is exempt from taxation.

***AMENDMENT NO. 4:** *The constitutional amendment relating to the provision of parks and recreational facilities by certain conservation and reclamation districts.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment amends Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, to provide that conservation and reclamation districts have the specific right and duty to develop parks and recreational facilities. The amendment requires the legislature to pass laws concerning the development of parks and recreational facilities by districts. The amendment, without limiting the power to finance parks and recreational facilities that currently exists, provides for the issuance of bonds financed by taxes in districts located completely or partially in a limited number of areas.

***AMENDMENT NO. 5:** *The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation travel trailers not held or used for the production of income.*

SUMMARY: Section 1(d), Article VIII, Texas Constitution, currently authorizes the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxes certain tangible personal property but excludes the legislature from exempting tangible personal property structures used or occupied as residential dwellings. The proposed amendment amends Subsection (d) to exclude from being exempt only those structures used or occupied as residential dwellings that are substantially affixed to real estate. The amendment repeals Section 1(j), Article VIII, Texas Constitution, which authorizes the legislature to allow a taxing unit, other than a school district, to exempt travel trailers from ad valorem taxes.

***AMENDMENT NO. 6:** *The constitutional amendment permitting refinancing of a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment amends Section 50(f), Article XVI, Texas Constitution, by providing that a home equity loan may be refinanced in a manner that converts the loan into a reverse mortgage. The same change proposed by this amendment is also being proposed, among other constitutional changes, by Proposition 16, which is being submitted to the voters at this election.

***AMENDMENT NO. 7:** *The constitutional amendment to permit a six-person jury in a district court misdemeanor trial.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment specifies that a district court petit jury hearing a criminal misdemeanor case must consist of six persons. In a conforming change, the amendment also

strikes a provision allowing nine members of a district court 12-member jury to render a verdict in a criminal misdemeanor case.

***AMENDMENT NO. 8:** *The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a person to take office without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment adds Section 13, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, to authorize the legislature to provide by general law that a person may take office without an election if that person is the only candidate to qualify in an election to be held for that office.

***AMENDMENT NO. 9:** *The constitutional amendment relating to the use of income and appreciation of the permanent school fund.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment amends Section 5, Article VII, Texas Constitution, to allow the State Board of Education or the legislature to determine the amount distributed to the permanent school fund (PSF) to the available school fund (ASF) from a portion of the "total return," including capital gains, on all investment assets of the PSF. The amendment places limits on the portion of total return that may be transferred to the ASF and provides for payment from the PSF of the expenses of managing permanent school fund assets.

***AMENDMENT NO. 10:** *The constitutional amendment authorizing municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment or supplies for the benefit of rural volunteer fire departments.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment adds Section 52i, Article III, Texas Constitution, to create an additional exception to the general constitutional prohibition against a county, city, town, or other political subdivision of the state granting a thing of value to any individual, association, or corporation.

***AMENDMENT NO. 11:** *A constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to enact laws authorizing and governing the operation of wineries in this state.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment would amend Section 20, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, to permit the legislature to authorize wineries to manufacture, sell, and dispense wine in any area of the state, even if the sale of wine in the area has not been authorized by a local option election.

***AMENDMENT NO. 12:** *The constitutional amendment concerning civil lawsuits against doctors and health care providers, and other actions, authorizing the legislature to determine limitations on non-economic damages.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment would add a new Section 66 to Article III, Texas Constitution, that authorizes the legislature by statute to determine the limit of liability for all damages and losses, however characterized, other than economic damages, in health care liability claims and other claims.

***AMENDMENT NO. 13:** *The constitutional amendment to permit counties, cities and towns, and junior college districts to establish an ad valorem tax freeze on residence homesteads of the disabled and of the elderly and their spouses.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment amends Section 1-b,

Article VIII, Texas Constitution, by adding Subsection (h) to authorize the governing body of a county, a municipality, or a junior college district to prohibit increases in the amount of county, municipal, or junior college district ad valorem taxes that may be imposed on the residence homestead of a person who is disabled or who is 65 years of age or older. The proposed amendment would provide a means by which disabled and elderly persons can be provided the same beneficial tax treatment in connection with their county, municipal, or junior college district property taxes that elderly persons currently enjoy in connection with their public school district property taxes.

***AMENDMENT NO. 14:** *The constitutional amendment providing for authorization of the issuing of notes or the borrowing of money on a short-term basis by a state transportation agency for transportation-related projects, and the issuance of bonds and other public securities secured by the state highway fund.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment would provide for the Texas Department of Transportation to issue notes or obtain loans with terms of two years or less to carry out any of the department's functions. The amendment would also provide for the Texas Transportation Commission to issue longer term bonds or other public securities to fund highway improvement projects. The bonds or other public securities would be payable from the money in the state highway fund.

***AMENDMENT NO. 15:** *The constitutional amendment providing that certain benefits under certain local public retirement systems may not be reduced or impaired.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment amends Article XVI, Texas Constitution, by adding Section 66 to provide that any change made to certain benefits provided by certain retirement systems cannot reduce benefits that a person was entitled to receive before the date of the change. The amendment places the responsibility for ensuring that those benefits are not reduced on both the retirement system and the governmental entities that finance the system.

***AMENDMENT NO. 16:** *The constitutional amendment authorizing a home equity line of credit, providing for administrative interpretation of home equity lending law, and otherwise relating to the making, refinancing, repayment, and enforcement of home equity loans.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment amends Section 50, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, by providing that a home equity loan may be in the form of a line of credit. This same change is also being proposed by Proposition 6, which is being submitted to the voters at this election.

***AMENDMENT NO. 17:** *The constitutional amendment to prohibit an increase in the total amount of school district ad valorem taxes that may be imposed on the residence homestead of a disabled person.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment amends Subsection (d), Section 1-b, Article VIII, Texas Constitution, which prohibits increases in the amount of school district ad valorem taxes that may be imposed on the residence

homestead of a person who is 65 years of age or older.

***AMENDMENT NO. 18:** *The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a person to assume an office of a political subdivision without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment adds Section 13A, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, to authorize the legislature to provide by general law that a person may assume an office of a political subdivision without an election if that person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office.

***AMENDMENT NO. 19:** *The constitutional amendment to repeal the authority of the legislature to provide for the creation of rural fire prevention districts.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment would repeal Section 48-d, Article III, Texas Constitution. That section authorizes the legislature to create rural fire prevention districts supported by a tax on property located in the district.

***AMENDMENT NO. 20:** *The constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds or notes not to exceed \$250 million payable from the general revenues of the state to provide loans to defense-related communities, that will be repaid by the defense-related community, for economic development projects, including projects that enhance the military value of military installations.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment would add Section 49-n to Article III of the Texas Constitution and permit the legislature to authorize one or more state agencies to issue general obligation bonds or notes in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$250 million to provide loans to defense-related communities for economic development projects that benefit the defense-related community, including projects that enhance the military value of military installations located in the state. The amendment would authorize the bond proceeds to be deposited in the Texas military value revolving loan account in the state treasury.

***AMENDMENT NO. 21:** *The constitutional amendment to permit a current or retired faculty member of a public college or university to receive compensation for service on the governing body of a water district.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment would permit a faculty member or retired faculty member of a public institution of higher education who also serves as a member of a governing body of a water district to receive a salary for that service.

***AMENDMENT NO. 22:** *The constitutional amendment authorizing the appointment of a temporary replacement officer to fill a vacancy created when a public officer enters active duty in the United States armed forces.*

SUMMARY: The proposed amendment would (1) allow an elected or appointed officer of the state or of any political subdivision who enters active duty in the armed forces of the United States as a result of being called to duty, drafted, or activated, to retain the person's office while serving in the military; and (2) allow a temporary acting officer to be appointed to perform all the duties of the office.