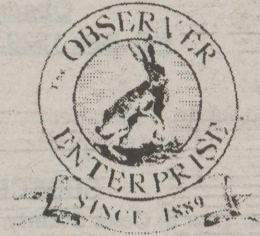


THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

Single Copy 35¢



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

Vol. 116, No. 30

Friday, February 20, 2004

Early voting for March Primary begins Monday

Monday, February 23, is the first day of early voting with Friday, March 5, marking the end of the early voting period for the March 9 Primary Election.

Early voting will be conducted in the County Clerk's office from 8:00 - 5:00. The County Clerk's office will be open during the lunch hour. Branch early voting will take place in Bronte at the Coke County Annex (the old El Ranchero Bldg.) on February 24th, 25th and March 2nd & 3rd from 9:00-1:00.

In addition to state and national offices, several county and precinct positions will be on the ballot. The office and candidates include:

Constable, Precinct 1 - Kenneth Rasco

Constable, Precinct 2 - Marty Boyd

Commissioner, Precinct 1 - Jimmie Byrne, Troy "Gene" Montgomery, and James Royall

Commissioner, Precinct 3 - Gaylon Pitcock

County Attorney - Nancy Arthur

Sheriff - Rick Styles and Marshall Millican, Democratic, and George Brickey, Republican

Tax Assessor/Collector - Gayle Sisemore

If anyone is interested in work-

ing as an election clerk, please contact County/District Clerk Mary Grim at 453-2631.

Filing for May 15th local elections began last week and ends March 15th

West Coke County Hospital District will have three 2 year terms on the ballot. The terms of Joan Cantrell, Rick Sanchez, and Gayland Hurst are expiring. Candidate applications may be picked up in the Administrator's office at Robert Lee Care Center.

East Coke County Hospital District will have three 2 year terms on the ballot. The terms of Ed Cumbie, Billy Joe Lockett, and Mark Duncan are expiring. Candidate applications may be picked up in the Administrator's office at Bronte Health & Rehab Center.

The city of Robert Lee will have to fill two council seats currently held by Beth Prather and Bonita Copeland. Mayor Garland Davis' term is also expiring. Candidate applications may be picked up in the City Secretary's office at Robert Lee City Hall.

The city of Bronte will have to fill three 2 year council seats currently held by Martha Ratliff,



Fire caused major structural damage to the home of Gary and Annette Acker Tuesday afternoon, February 17, 2004. The fire began in the attic and was extinguished by members of the Bronte Volunteer Fire Department. The home is located at 402 S. Washington in Bronte. A fund has been established for the Acker family at First National Bank in Bronte.

Charles Sonnenberg, and Leslie Rolls. Mayor Martin Lee's term is also expiring. Candidate applications may be picked up in the City Secretary's office at Bronte City Hall.

Bronte ISD has two vacancies to fill for full three year terms. Positions open are currently held by Terry Charles and Gary Acker.

Candidate applications will be available for two places on the Robert Lee ISD Board of Trustees. These places are three year terms. Applications may be picked up in the

Administration office at Robert Lee ISD. The terms of Darrell Pitcock and Bill Burns are expiring. Requirements for filing include living in the Robert Lee ISD school district and being a registered voter.

Bronte Longhorns advance to playoffs

The Bronte Longhorn basketball team defeated Miles 46-32. Scoring and stats for Bronte: BJ Hall 11 points, 6 rebounds, 6 steals; Cody Lee 6 points; Tyson Baker 8 points, 6 assists; Garrett Fiveash 4 points; Logan Rawls

16 points; and Riley Coalson 1 point.

The season record for the Longhorn basketball team stands at 18-11, with a district record of 7-3.

Bronte is district runner-up and qualifies for the play-offs. Bronte will play Albany for Bi-District Tuesday, Feb. 24 in Eula at 7:00 pm.

AARP Tax Aid available

Free tax help for taxpayers with middle-and low-income with special attention to those age 60 and older, Friday, Feb. 20, @ 1:00 pm, Bronte Senior Center. E-Filing available. Please call 473-6471.

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

Bronte Rabies clinic set

A Rabies Clinic has been set for March 3rd from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The Clinic will be held at the City Hall, 114 South Washington.

The Clinic will be for dogs and cats only. The City requires all cats and dogs to be vaccinated. A new animal Ordinance will go into effect April 1st. A copy of the Ordinance can be picked up at the City Hall.

For more information, call the City Hall, 473-3501.

Burn Workshops to be offered

Rangeland burning classes have been scheduled for February 19-21 and March 4-6 at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station near Sonora.

For more information, go to the Web at <http://range-web.tamu.edu/arm> or phone (979) 845-5580.



A generous donation was presented by Bob Boyd (right) of the Sugar Land office of Sago-Jameson Gas Plant at Silver to Mayor Garland Davis (left) for the Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Department station fund. Local Sago-Jameson representative Donnie Devoll also attended the presentation.



Marilyn Bivins, representative of Hochheim Prairie Insurance Branch 94, presents a \$100 check to Friends of the Pool volunteer, Fran Crumpler.

Friends of the Pool is working with Coke County to obtain funds to renovate the 47 year old Bronte Swimming Pool. The fund currently has \$23,176 that has been contributed by local groups. Coke County recently received a contract from Texas Parks and Wildlife for a \$50,000 matching grant. Since the contract was received, commissioners can now begin the planning phase of the pool project.

New AEP state presidents announced

Charles Patton, vice president of governmental affairs for American Electric Power (NYSE: AEP), has been named Texas state president for American Electric Power, effective immediately.

Patton will fill a vacancy left by Texas State President Julio Reyes who has been named AEP's Oklahoma state president. Reyes will fill the position previously held by Pete Churchwell, who recently announced his retirement. "Charles Patton has done an incredible job of directing state governmental affairs activities for AEP in Texas," said Dale Heydlauff, AEP senior vice president of governmental and environmental affairs. "His understanding of the policy processes, as well as his strong background in the electric utility industry, has made him a vital information source for policymakers and other stakeholders throughout Texas. These skills are just a few of the reasons that he will make an extremely effective state president."

Patton has been responsible for Texas governmental affairs functions since 1996 when he joined Central and South West Inc. CSW merged with AEP in June 2000. Prior to joining CSW, Patton spent nearly 11 years in the energy and telecommunications business with Houston Industries/Houston Lighting & Power. While there, he worked in regulatory affairs and assisted in the litigation and management of regulatory proceedings. He was a policy specialist in government affairs and a lobbyist in Texas and Washington, D.C.

During this time, Patton also served as a company liaison with the United States Energy Association and traveled internationally to discuss government affairs and public relations with Eastern European utilities. In 1999, he was appointed by former Texas Governor George Bush to serve on the Texas Energy Coordination Council and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, where he has since been reappointed by Governor Rick Perry. Earlier this month, Governor Perry appointed Patton to the Texas Energy Planning Council, which was established to advise the governor on a balanced plan for providing the energy needed to fuel the state's future economic growth.

Patton received a bachelor's degree (cum laude) from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, and a master's degree from the LBJ School of Public Policy at the University of Texas in Austin. He completed, with honors, special undergraduate programs relating to urban planning and government at Boston University, Harvard and American University.

Julio Reyes has served as AEP Texas state president since 2001. He will assume the post as the new Oklahoma state president immediately.

"Julio's ability to establish close relationships with various groups throughout AEP's Texas service territory has been crucial to our continued success," Heydlauff said. "He has represented the company with distinction and will now dedicate his considerable talents to effectively managing our external affairs activities in the State of Oklahoma."

During his 30 years in the electric utility industry, Reyes has held a variety of positions in the former Central Power and Light Company (CPL) Pharr



Charles Patton

Operations/Design Engineering Department and CPL's McAllen Marketing Department, as well as being an area business manager in Eagle Pass and in Brownsville. He also served as regional sales manager for Public Service Company of Oklahoma while based in Tulsa, and division manager for CPL's Southern Division in the Rio Grande Valley.

Reyes has spent much of his time with the utility industry representing CPL in local community organizations and assisting in local/state economic development projects, including the Texas Association of Businesses, the Texas Taxpayers and Research Association, the Governor's Market Texas Advisory Committee, the Texas Water Foundation and is the honorary chairman for the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He also has served on the Rio Grande Boy Scout Council Board, the Rio Grande Partnership Board, the Texas State Technical College Foundation Board (past member) and as vice president of the McAllen Chamber of Commerce Board.

Reyes attended the University of Texas/Pan American and the University of Texas/Brownsville and holds a bachelor of business administration degree in management.

American Electric Power owns and operates more than 42,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the United States and select international markets and is the



Julio Reyes

largest electricity generator in the U.S. AEP is also one of the largest electric utilities in the United States, with almost 5 million customers linked to AEP's 11-state electricity transmission and distribution grid. The company is based in Columbus, Ohio.

Abalos named to Dean's List

Charles Abalos was recently named to the Dean's List at Howard College in Big Spring, Texas. Charles, a sophomore, received a 3.40 GPA and has been nominated for the Honor Society this semester. He is a 2002 graduate of RLHS.

Local artist exhibiting in Extravaganza

Charlotte Northcutt of Robert Lee will be among more than 150 artists participating in the fifth annual Stribling Art Extravaganza February 20-22 at historic Fort Concho in San Angelo. The event benefits West Texas Rehabilitation Center.

Displayed works will range from oils, acrylics and watercolors to bronzes, ceramics and wood - all of which will be for sale.

The event will be held at Fort Concho's Commissary, Quartermaster and Barracks 6 buildings. Hours are 10 am to 7 pm, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 20 and 21 and 1-4 pm, Sunday, February 22. Admission is free.

More information about the event is available by calling WTRC-San Angelo at 325-223-6300.

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 2 6 Pk 1/2 Liter Bottles **/\$4**

Assorted 100 oz. Liquid or 84 oz. Powder Fab Detergent \$3.49

All Rims Blue Bell Ice Cream
 3 1/2 Gal. **/\$10**

Hunt's Tomato Ketchup
 24 oz. bottle **\$.89**

BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS

Bronte Longhorns advance to playoffs

The Bronte Longhorn basketball team defeated Miles 46-32. Scoring and stats for Bronte: BJ Hall 11 points, 6 rebounds, 6 steals; Cody Lee 6 points; Tyson Baker 8 points, 6 assists; Garrett Fiveash 4 points; Logan Rawls 16 points; and Riley Coalson 1 point.

The season record for the Longhorn basketball team stands at 18-11, with a district record of 7-3.

Bronte is district runner-up and qualifies for the play-offs. Bronte will play Albany for Bi-District Tuesday, Feb. 24 in Eula at 7:00 pm.

Bronte ISD Trustees meet in regular session

The Bronte ISD Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on February 12, 2004, 7:00 pm. Those in attendance were Wayne Coalson, Terry Charles, Kendall Gibbs, Bob Frazee, David Scott, Gary Acker, Jeff Schoenfield and Alan Richey, Superintendent. Also present were the principals Rick Howell, Secondary, Terry Marrs, Elementary, and Michael Bohensky, CCJJC.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Terry Marrs. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Board initiatives included notifying the board that the marquee will be installed this weekend.

The principals, Rick Howell, Secondary, Terry Marrs, Elementary, and Michael Bohensky, CCJJC, gave their

reports to the board. CCJJC has an enrollment of 193 and they are building a free standing greenhouse with a service learning grant. Elementary has an enrollment of 187 students. Secondary has an enrollment of 140 students.

The regular board meeting for March was set on the 9th at 7:00 pm. The Annual Site-Based Retreat was set for April 3. The dates of March 25, April 2, April 8, May 21, and May 27 were set as early release dates.

Board training credits were reviewed. A school board election was called and ordered for May 15, 2004, to elect two school board trustees for full three-year terms. First day to file an application for place on the ballot is February 14, 2004, last day to file is March 15, 2004.

The board was informed of the transfer to WADA funds to Bronte ISD by Austin ISD.

Alan Richey, Superintendent, gave a financial update and facility update. The school has purchased the house at 323 Holmes and the school will be receiving insurance settlements from previous health carriers. The board was also given an update on the new gymnasium plans.

The contract of Rick Howell, Secondary Principal, Terry Marrs, Elementary Principal, and Michael Bohensky, CCJJC Principal were extended for one year. The board accepted the resignation of George Tomes, band director. Jerry Crowell has been hired to fill the band director position. Certified personnel were reviewed and discussed.

The January 2004 bills were approved for payment.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 pm.

Bronte ISD reduces employee injuries

Bronte ISD, one of more than 454 participating schools, received the Diamond Award for savings to the district of \$9,889. Mr. Wesley Slade, Executive Vice President of Claims Administrative Services, explained, "Taxpayers will be gratified to know the results of participating in the CAS safety program results in a reduction of injuries and claims costs."

Bronte ISD, represented by Mr. Alan Richey, Superintendent was rec-

ognized by the West Texas Educational Insurance Association for success in implementing safety programs designed to prevent employee injuries in the workplace. The workers' compensation program has assisted Texas Schools in avoiding over 13,533 employee injuries since 1991. Plus, districts have saved over \$154 million dollars through lower cost to the schools.

Mr. Barry Jones, CEO/President of CAS, explained, "Our insurance programs were created to offer the safest working conditions and the lowest cost for Texas school districts, creating savings of tax dollars while providing safer work environments for employees. Thirteen years of success for this program is proof of the district's and CAS' commitment to providing Texas Schools with the safest working environment for school employees and the lowest cost to the district."

At CAS, our number one priority is providing the safest possible workplace for district employees while keeping costs at a minimum."

4-H photography contest slated

Coke County 4-H will be holding a photography contest for 4-H members. Entries are due in the office Thursday, March 18, 2004. Categories are Single Color Print and Single Black and White Print. Prints are to be mounted on white poster board or construction paper. The prints must be glued to poster board or construction paper and be the exact size as photo or have a border no more than 1". Please include your county, name, age, category and class on the back of each photo. The classes are: People, Nature/Scenic, Animal, Humor, Promote 4-H, Career, and Digital Pictures. Digital photos are NOT allowed in any other category. You may enter in as many classes and as many times as you wish.

Winners at the county level will be eligible for District competition which will be held during District 4-H Roundup for Juniors and during State Roundup for Seniors.

For more information, please contact the extension office (325) 453-2461.

Coke County Library News

Automation at the Coke County Library is coming closer to reality. The bar-codes are being fixed to the books by a volunteer-with-a-vision who won't stop until all the books are bar-coded.

Patrons' names have been added to the computer. The card file of patrons dates back to the library's inception in 1971. Some of the names in the card file are of people who signed the card as children and are now the county's leaders. Some of the cards bear names of people who signed up for a library card as young adults and are still patrons who use the library regularly. Some of the patrons who signed up early-on, but don't visit often, have not even had their phone numbers changed. All of the names, new and old, have been put in the computer. Once a patron, always a patron.

The patrons are of several minds as to how best to utilize the automation. Some say they don't want to be bothered with bringing a patron card each time they visit the library. Some say they don't know what they will do without the book card to sign because they won't be able to remember whether or not they read the book. Some look to see if their friend has read the book knowing that if their friend checked out the book, it will be one they will like. Which all goes to show that a change, while inevitable, is not always good.

Someone said that we first invent the machines and from then on, the machines invent us. So, the library is in an inventive stage right now. So is the librarian. And, so are the patrons. But, eventually it will all work out. A way will be

found to check out books, return books, and be reminded which books have been read. The important thing is that the books will be in the library and the patrons will be coming in.

The Coke County Library hours are Tuesdays, 8-12; Wednesdays, 8-4; Thursdays, 1-5; Fridays, 8-12. Story Hour is Tuesday at 10:00 am. Headstart Story Hour is Wednesday at 9:30 am. Books may be returned to the Main Street Market in Bronte or the 24/7 book drop on the porch of the library.

Nationwide ACT test set for April 3

College-bound high school students can take the ACT Assessment on April 3, 2004, the next nationwide test date. The registration postmark deadline is February 27. Late registration postmark deadline is March 12.

ACT scores are accepted by virtually all colleges and universities in the nation, including all Ivy League schools. The test fee is \$26 (\$29 in Florida). Colleges use ACT scores, along with a student's high school GPA, high school courses taken, extracurricular activities and other information to help determine admissions and the appropriate course placement for new students.

The ACT Assessment is an achievement test in English, reading, math, and science. It measures what students have learned in high school, and the skills required for success in college. It is not an aptitude test. Some students find it more comfortable than an aptitude test because it reflects their high school curriculum.

For more information, including registration forms and test locations, contact your high school guidance counselor or register online on ACT's website - www.act.org.

School Menu

Breakfast

Monday, Feb. 23

Cereal, mixed fruit, toast, jelly, milk

Tuesday, Feb. 24

Donut, apple sauce, teddy grams, milk

Wed., Feb. 25

Sausage rolls, assorted juice, milk

Thurs., Feb. 26

Breakfast pizza, assorted juice, milk

Friday, Feb. 27

Pop tarts, assorted juice, biscuit, jelly, milk

Lunch

Monday, Feb. 23

Chicken spaghetti, tossed salad, corn on the cob, sliced peaches, bread sticks, milk

Tuesday, Feb. 24

Beef enchiladas, pinto beans, tossed salad, Spanish rice, brownies, milk

Wed., Feb. 25

Corn dog, tator tots, mixed fruit, pork & beans, milk

Thurs., Feb. 26


Sliced turkey with gravy, creamed potatoes, green beans, rolls, spice cake, milk

Friday, Feb. 27

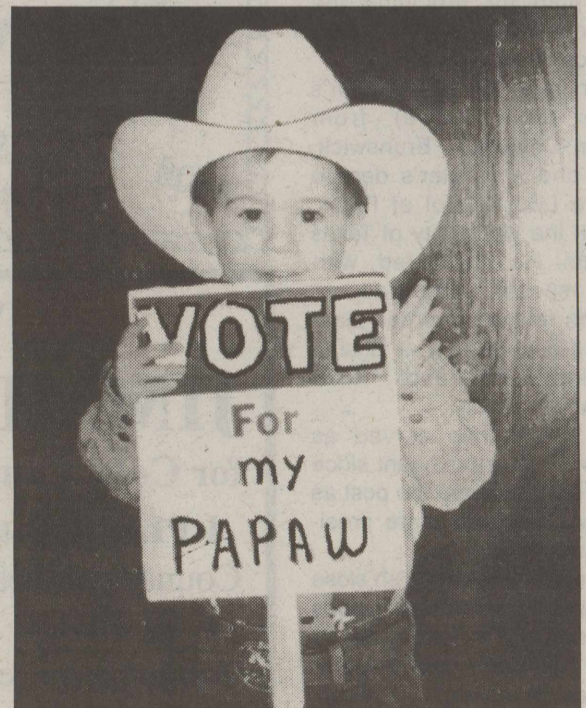
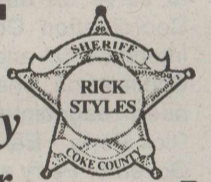
Hot dogs, chili & cheese, French fries, baked beans, bun, chocolate chip cookies, milk

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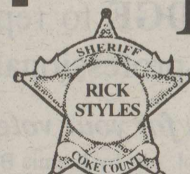
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ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS

RL Powerlifting results

The Robert Lee girls placed 2nd overall in a very tough Reagan County Meet. Girls placing: Andra Braswell 2nd; Brittany Soliz 3rd; Carolina Vera 1st; Julia Cruz 3rd; Shannon Honse 5th; and Lindsey Roe 2nd.

The boys finished 7th in the Reagan County Meet. Placing were: Brandon Soliz 2nd; Eleasar Vera 5th; and R.J. Service 4th.

The students will compete in Winters on Feb. 21st.

Robert Lee boys basketball results

In Roscoe on the 3rd, the Robert Lee boys varsity basketball team was defeated by Roscoe 38-41. Scoring for Robert Lee: Phillip Arellano 7; Evan Braswell 2; Omar Saucedo 8; Andy Mulkey 7; Brian Abalos 4; and Cole Flanagan 10.

In Robert Lee on the 6th, the boys were defeated by Sterling City 27-35. Scoring for Robert Lee: Phillip Arellano 14; Evan Braswell 3; Omar Saucedo 1; Andy Mulkey 3; Brian Abalos 2; and Ruben Torres 4.

In Hamlin on the 10th, the game went into overtime but the Robert Lee varsity lost by a score of 53-56. Scoring for Robert Lee: Phillip Arellano 6; Evan Braswell 9; Omar Saucedo 6; Andy Mulkey 2; Brian Abalos 6; Cole Flanagan 21; and Ruben Torres 3.

In Roscoe on the 3rd, the Robert Lee JV boys defeated Roscoe 47-35. Scoring for Robert Lee: Eric Hayes 2; Chris Torres 2; Kevin Honse 4; Vincent McClelland 12; Jonathan Pagan 2; Lance Millican 2; Josh Conner 10; and Brandon Soliz 13.

In Robert Lee, on the 6th, Robert Lee JV boys defeated Sterling City 41-26. Scoring for Robert Lee: Eric Hayes 4; Kevin Honse 10; Wade Arledge 1; Vincent McClelland 8; Lance Millican 7; Josh Conner 2; and Brandon Soliz 9.

On the 10th, in Hamlin, the Robert Lee JV boys added

another victory by defeating Hamlin JV 54-27. Scoring for Robert Lee: Eric Hayes 4; Chris Torres 1; Clay Antilley 3; Branden Phillips 5; Kevin Honse 9; Vincent McClelland 8; Lance Millican 14; Josh Conner 4; and Brandon Soliz 6.

Robert Lee band news

The Robert Lee ISD band project, thanks to advertisers and community sponsorship, was once again a great success. The readiness to help, the willingness to support and words of encouragement, are appreciated by each student. It takes a lot of effort to put the band calendar together. The band students, parents, and friends of the band worked very hard to get it done. Delivery of band calendars has been completed and we hope that we have not missed anyone. If you did not receive your calendar, or would like to purchase any of the extras, please contact Vallery Johnson.

The spring semester will be a busy one for the Robert Lee Band. Mr. Roberts and Band Boosters are planning a spring concert tentatively set for April to be followed by a BBQ sandwich meal. Band members are working diligently to provide concert goers with some great entertainment. Members of the RLHS Steer band are looking forward to the annual band trip in May, which is always an end of school year highlight.

The band and band boosters have been planning all year for concerts, fun events and, hopefully, scholarship presentations. Their next project is "Little Caesar" pizza kit venture. Band members will be selling the kits just prior to spring break. You may contact a band member or Mr. Roberts to place orders.

Student art contest announced

Congressman Charlie Stenholm (TX-17) recently announced plans for the 23rd Annual Congressional Art Competition for high school students in the 17th Congressional District of Texas. The Congressional Art Competition provides Stenholm and his colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives the opportunity to showcase the talents of creative young constituents.

Each Member of the House of Representatives is allowed to exhibit one art entry from a



Robert Lee High School Powerlifters who placed 2nd at the Reagan County Meet include (from left) Shannon Honse, Carolina Vera, Brittany Soliz, Julia Cruz, Lindsey Roe, and Andra Braswell.

student in his or her Congressional District. The winning entry from Stenholm's Congressional District will be exhibited - along with art from students in the 434 other Congressional Districts in the United States - for one year in the tunnel space between the U.S. Capitol and the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, D.C. Members of Congress, their staff and visitors regularly view the art in this area because it is a frequently-used passageway on Capitol Hill.

In addition, the winners from each Congressional District are invited to a Capitol Hill reception in June that highlights their accomplishments in conjunction with the hanging of their artwork. This reception traditionally features a celebrity from the entertainment industry.

This impressive annual exhibit represents the combined efforts of Members of Congress, students and teachers who encourage their students to enter the competition.

Students in grades 9 through 12 from Coke, Glasscock, Mitchell, Nolan and Sterling Counties are invited to enter a preliminary contest to be held in Sweetwater on Thursday, March 25, 2004. Students may obtain release forms and further information at their local high schools.

Entries should be brought to

the Sweetwater High School by 4 pm on Wednesday, March 24th, 2004, for regional judging the next day.

Other regional shows will be held in Abilene, Graham, Mineral Wells, San Angelo, Snyder, Stephenville and Zephyr. Regional winners will be honored and the final overall winner will be announced at an Awards Brunch hosted by Charlie and Cindy Stenholm in Abilene on Saturday, April 17.

Artwork must be no larger than 32" by 32" framed (fram-

ing not required) and two-dimensional. Eligible forms of artwork are paintings, prints, drawings, collages, computer art and photography, and the artwork must capture the flavor or depict the heritage of West Texas and the 17th District. Entries may depict, but are not limited to, landscapes.

For more information, contact Annette Wilson in Stenholm's Stamford office at (325) 773-3623 or Scharles Kelley at the Sweetwater High School at (325) 235-4371.



Breakfast

Monday, Feb. 23

Juice, cinnamon roll, cereal, milk

Tuesday, Feb. 24

Juice, pancake & sausage on stick, cereal, milk

Wed., Feb. 25

Juice, biscuit, sausage, cereal, milk

Thurs., Feb. 26

Juice, muffin, cereal, milk

Friday, Feb. 27

Juice, donut, cereal, milk

Lunch

Monday, Feb. 23

Bean chalupas, salad, cheese, Spanish rice, tamales, applesauce, milk

Tuesday, Feb. 24

Chicken O's, macaroni & cheese, green beans, bread, pears, milk

Wed., Feb. 25

Corn dog, tator tots, broccoli & carrots w/ranch dressing, cookie, milk

Thurs., Feb. 26

Spaghetti, salad, carrots, roll, peaches, milk

Friday, Feb. 27

Hot dog, chili, cheese, chips, pork & beans, fruit cocktail, milk

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2001 F-150 Super Crew XLT 4x4 \$16,995

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2003 Chevy C2500 HD Crew Cab \$22,995

White • Silverado Package • Replacement Front Bumper • Rhino Liner • Gooseneck • 11,000 Miles

1997 Mercury Grand Marquis LS \$ 6,995

Prairie Tan w/Tan Leather • One Owner • 70,000 Miles

2003 Ford F-350 Crew Cab XLT \$23,495

Powerstroke • Automatic • White with Tan Cloth

2003 Ford F-150 Crew Cab \$16,995

White • 4 Door • XLT

2002 Ford F-250 Crew Cab \$20,495

White • 4 Door • XLT • Powerstroke

2002 Jeep Wrangler Sport \$16,995

Dark Green w/Khaki Interior • Automatic 19,000 Miles • Full Doors • Air Conditioning CD Player • Extra Sporty!

2003 Mercury Grand Marquis LS \$19,495

White • 17,000 Miles • Leather

2003 Mercury Grand Marquis LS \$19,495

Arizona Beige • 16,000 Miles • Leather

2003 Ford Mustang Coupe \$13,995

V6 • Auto • Red Fire • 14,000 Miles • Extra Nice!

2002 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4 \$18,995

Black • Excellent Condition

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Randy Flanagan • Buck Duncan • Billy Wayne Roe

Low vision awareness month
 Many adults are conscientious about getting routine annual checkups from their eye care professional. However, if you are still experiencing any of the following problems, the experts at Lighthouse International recommend that a low vision examination may be in order.
Because of your vision, you have difficulty:

- *Reading the newspaper or other fine print, even while wearing glasses;
- *Seeing traffic signals or highway signs;
- *Seeing the curb when walking;
- *Adapting to light when entering indoors;
- *With glare all the time.

"There are many ways to evaluate and treat individuals with reduced vision," says Bruce Rosenthal, OD, Chief of Low Vision Programs, Lighthouse International. He advises to "ask your eye care professional whether you would benefit from treatment and referral to a low vision doctor."

Conducted by specially trained optometrists and ophthalmologists, the low vision examination is designed to accurately evaluate how one's vision functions in day-to-day living. It is not only about how well you see an eye chart, but also how well you see faces, street signs, newspaper print, and all the other visual clues that guide you through the day.

In observance of Low Vision Awareness Month, the experts at Lighthouse International offer guidelines for what a low vision examination entails: The Low Vision Examination includes:

- *A special chart to measure how well you see both at a distance and up close. This chart is designed to measure vision-regardless of how limited it is. These charts can also be useful for teaching a patient how to make the best use of his/her remaining vision.
- *Another specialized chart that measures contrast sensitivity and locates blurry or distorted areas in the visual field. This chart can be used to determine the need for specialized lighting, as well as strong lenses and/or hi-tech devices.
- *A prescription of high-powered optical and other devices such as magnifiers and telescopes, suited to your eye condition, activities and lifestyles. Some of the low vision lenses can often enable you to read again - even when it was considered impossible with ordinary glasses. And, some of the latest devices can make readable those illegible menus in dark restaurants!
- *Individual instruction in how to use prescribed devices and time for practice. While your doctor may suggest many options for devices, the final choice is yours. Getting accustomed to using most devices often requires additional practice at home.

After a low vision doctor prescribes devices to make best use of your existing vision, there is

more that can be done. Low vision care is part of a broad range of counseling and training services provided under the term, "vision rehabilitation." While vision rehabilitation cannot restore lost sight, it can help to maximize any remaining sight, as well as equip individuals with the techniques to maintain an independent lifestyle. A team of other professionals, including rehabilitation teachers and orientation and mobility specialists, social workers and employment specialists, can provide individualized instruction and guidance to achieve your personal goals - at home, at work and in the community. The services they provide equip people who are blind or partially sighted, as well as their family and friends, with the skills and confidence needed to improve the overall quality of life and to manage life with vision loss.

If you would like to locate an eye doctor specializing in low vision in your area or would like more information, call Lighthouse International's toll-free number at 1-800-829-0500 or visit the website at lighthouse.org.

Lighthouse International is a leading resource worldwide on vision impairment and vision rehabilitation. Through its pioneering work in vision rehabilitation services, education, research, prevention and advocacy, Lighthouse International enables people of all ages who are blind or partially sighted to lead independent and productive lives. Founded in 1905 and headquartered in New York, Lighthouse International is a not-for-profit organization, and depends on the support and generosity of individuals, foundations and corporations.

Free Redbud trees

Ten free American redbud trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during February 2004.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

Redbuds have clusters of rosy pink flowers in spring, and dark green summer leaves turning to yellow in the fall.

The trees will be shipped post-paid at the right time for planting between March 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced free of charge.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Redbud Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by February 29, 2004.

Social Security news

by Fredi Franki
 Social Security Manager
 San Angelo Office

Surveys show that an increasing number of older Americans want to retire from their jobs, but not retire from the workforce. They want to retire from the work that they have done for most of their lives for 40 hours a week,

but they also want to take up a second, perhaps part-time career. If you are or expect to be one of these 'semi-retirees' there is some important Social Security information you should keep in mind.

The relationship among your work, earnings and eligibility for Social Security benefits depends largely on your age. You probably fit into one of the following age groups.

You are full retirement age or older.

This is the easy one. If you are "full retirement age" or older, your earnings will not reduce your Social Security benefits. Or to put it another way, once you reach that magic age, you can collect all the Social Security retirement benefits you are due no matter how much money you earn from working. You can find a chart explaining full retirement age at www.socialsecurity.gov/retirechartred.htm.

You are between age 62 and the year that you will reach full retirement age.

The earliest you can apply for Social Security retirement benefits is age 62. In 2004 you can work and earn up to \$11,640 with no reduction in your benefits. But for every \$2 you earn over that, Social Security must hold back \$1 in benefits. (Note: In the first year you receive Social Security benefits, you are guaranteed that benefit for any month you earn less than \$970. And we do not count pensions, savings or investment income toward these threshold amounts - only wages or self-employment income.)

You are not yet full retirement

The earnings threshold is more lenient in the year you reach your full retirement age. Beginning in January of that year and until the month before you reach full retirement age, Social Security would withhold \$1 from your benefits for every \$3 you earn over the earnings limit (\$31,080 in 2004). Of course, the earnings thresholds are indexed for inflation, so they are updated yearly. And remember that beginning the month that you reach full retirement age, there would be no earnings limits.

You can learn more about Social Security and retirement benefits during a "semi-retirement" by reading the pamphlet, How Work Affects Your Benefits. You can call 1-800-772-1213 to request a free copy.

Host families needed

Host families - with or without children - are needed to host international teen ambassadors from over 30 different countries for the upcoming 2004 fall semester or academic school year. They are in need of caring families to provide a home and share with them this unique experience. Host families will provide a bed, meals, as well as friendship, understanding, and a genuine desire to share the American way of life with a youngster from overseas. All students speak English, are covered by medical insurance, have spending money for their personal expenses, and hope to arrive early August for enrollment in their new high school.

The young ambassadors are

between the ages of 15 and 18, and will attend the high school closest to their host family's home or private high school. Families are able to review student applications and select the student they feel will best match their family. The SHARE! High School Exchange Program is sponsored by ERDT, a non-profit educational foundation. For more information, please call Yvette Coffman at the SHARE! Southwest Office at 1-800-941-3738.

Texas Silver Haired Legislature sets filing period

The filing period for Texans age 60 years of age and older who want to run for the Tenth Texas Silver Haired Legislature (TSHL) began January 2, 2004.

Silver Haired legislators work with the Texas Legislature on senior issues which may become law. If you are a person 60 or older and a registered voter, you may file as a candidate for election to the TSHL January 2 through February 27, 2004. Terms are for two years. TSHL members pay their own travel expenses.

Filing forms may be obtained from the Area Agency on Aging of the Concho Valley Council of Governments located at 4850 Knickerbocker Road or by calling 325-223-5704 in San Angelo and 1-877-944-9666 outside San Angelo.

Four candidates will be elected from the Concho Valley. Currently serving as TSHL representatives are Gloria Henderson, Edith Clendennen, and Bonnie Hatch from San Angelo and Brigitte Rogers from Sonora.

Special Paid Advertisement

Repossessed & Off-Lease Vehicles To Be Sold To The Public
Some Vehicles For \$79/mo. & Up**

Over 90 Vehicles Will be Available at Mitchell Toyota Kia

SAN ANGELO, TX- Bank repossessed cars and trucks are among the most hunted-for bargains in the automotive industry. Unfortunately for John Q. Public, they're also the hardest to come by.

Banks often unload repossessed vehicles to car dealers at rock-bottom prices - allowing dealers to re-sell them for retail value. But bargain-seekers can take heart: This week, Mitchell Toyota Kia is going to change that.

This Wednesday, February 18th through Saturday, February 21st, over 90 repossessed, off-lease and other pre-owned vehicles will be offered at Mitchell Toyota Kia for up to thousands below normal values, and pass the savings on to their customers.

"These vehicles have been acquired at incredible savings from banks (repos), auctions, and other sources," Mike Griffin of Mitchell Toyota Kia said. "We will sacrifice this inven-

tory immediately - regardless of loss of profit. And if that means selling these vehicles for up to thousands below normal values, then that's what we'll do."

Every repossessed, off-lease and other pre-owned vehicle will be available, some for a \$59 down payment* then start making pay-

ranty. "With our pre-owned inventory near an all-time high, chances are we have what you're looking for in stock and ready to drive home," said Mr. Griffin.

Extra sales and finance staff will be on hand to assure customers prompt, quality service and the best finance terms possible. Mr. Griffin said, "We'll have over \$3 million in financing available for this event."


"The opportunity Texas bargain-hunters have been waiting for happens this Wednesday through

Saturday at Mitchell Toyota Kia. Customers may never see savings like this again," said Mr. Griffin.

After the Prior Bank Asset \$59 Down* MegaSale ends at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 21st, many of these vehicles will be sent to auction. Questions can be directed toll free: 1-800-451-8281. Mitchell Toyota Kia is located at 1500 Knickerbocker Rd. in San Angelo.

*All offers with approved credit. Vehicles subject to prior sale. Negative trade equity will be added to amount financed. Amount of down payment may vary with credit worthiness. \$59 down plus tax, title & fees.**Example: 2000 Ford Focus stk#U5542, Sale Price \$3731. \$79/mo for 48 mos. @ 10.5% APR. \$59 down payment plus tax. Total amount financed \$3,672 plus tax. Financing through TMCC. Subject to credit approval, prior sale & lenders final approval. Copyright G&A Marketing, Inc. 2003.

"This is the opportunity Texas bargain hunters have been waiting for! Customers may never see savings like this again."
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The Coke County Livestock Show Association Directors would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their contributions to the 2004 Coke County Livestock Show.

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SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to those who helped with the Barbecue: Keith Dillard, Wayland Drennan, Marshall Millican, Gaylon Pitcock, Curtis Walker, Robert Wink, Jeffie Roberts, Sue Wojtek, and the Directors' Wives.

A very special thank you to Hall's Super Save for their donation of meat. Also, thanks to the 4-H and FFA mothers who worked in the concession stand, and Luis Charles, Ron Cooper & Ray Sparks for announcing during the show and sale.