

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke & Sterling Counties

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Friday, January 20, 2006

County livestock show slated for this weekend

This weekend will be the 66th edition of the Coke County Junior Livestock Show, held at the Sterling Lindsey Memorial Exhibition Building in Robert Lee. This year's show will be dedicated to Wayland Drennan, Gaylon Pitcock and Roy Tinkler who have cooked for the Buyer Appreciation BBQ for more than thirty years. There will be a special presentation made to these three gentlemen on Saturday at 2:00 pm, just before the premium sale.

This year's show will feature animals in the Market Lamb, Market Goat, Market Swine and Market Steer shows, but more importantly, more than 75 youth exhibitors from around the county. The county stock show offers the youth of Coke County an opportunity to exhibit their livestock projects which they have worked with for more than 11 months, in many cases. Besides being a worthwhile educational activity for our youth in teaching them responsibility, working with others and numerous life skills, it is an important economic endeavor when you consider the animals purchased from county producers, feed purchased locally and the premium sale monies that come in from county and other areas. The total amounts of monies generated by these exhibitors amounts to over \$120,000 per year that is circulated in the county.

The show will begin Friday, January 20 at 6:30 p.m. with the Market Lamb show, followed by the Market Goat show. These will be judged by Kyle Eckert, Extension Sheep & Goat Specialist. Saturday, January 21, the Market Swine show gets underway at 8:30 a.m., followed by the Market Steer show at 11:00 a.m., judged by Leslie Vann, a hog producer and school administrator in Willman, TX.

The Buyer's appreciation barbecue will be served at 12:00 noon. Following the barbecue, the premium sale will be held at 2:00 p.m. to honor the prize winning animals and exhibitors. Persons wishing to donate to the

Coke County Livestock Show can contact either the County Extension office in the courthouse or one of the Livestock Association directors that include: Loretta Bridges, Shane Kelton, Wayne Coalson, David Jackson, Jerry T. Parker, Mike Cervenka, Corby Kelso, Douglas Roberts, Wibby Millican, Joel Percifull, Pat Percifull, Jeff McGlothlin, Ernest Ybarra, Lynn Denton, Mike Rodriquez, Ricky Ross, Ricky Royall, Joe Harmon, Rick Sanchez, Noel Tinkler, Tom Sawyer, and Marty Caston.

The directors of the Coke County Junior Livestock Show would like to invite everyone to come and participate in this year's County Livestock Show and support the youth of our county for their hard work and dedication.

Coke County manning phones for WTRC Telethon

West Texas Rehab Telethon begins its 47th year providing rehabilitation services to people regardless of income or physical problems. The annual telethon is slated this Saturday evening, January 21.

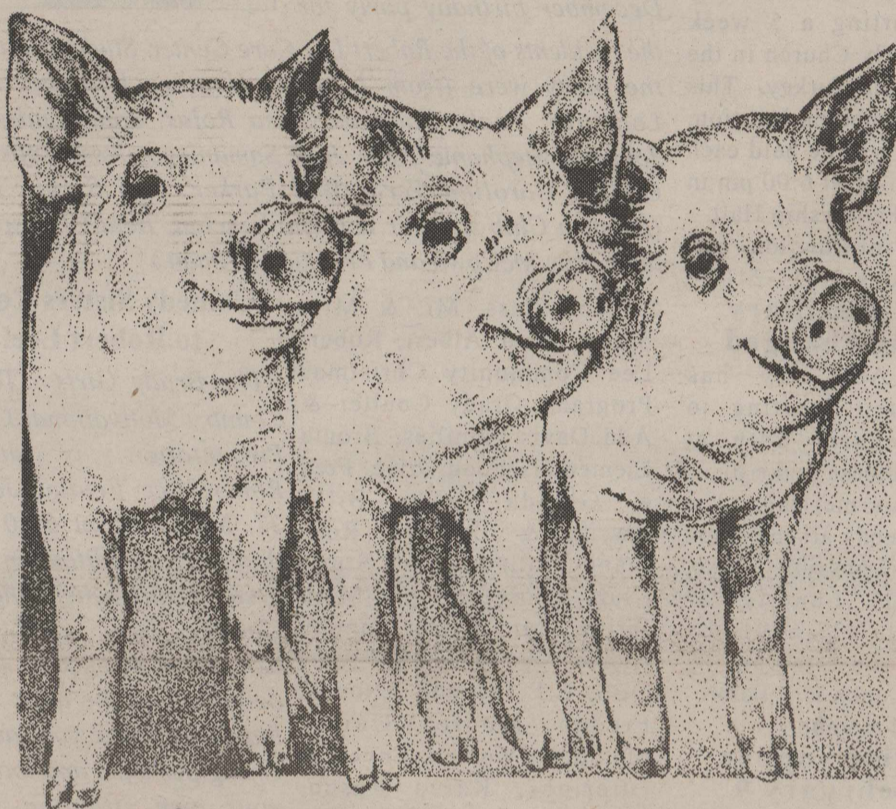
Coke County is actively participating in this effort as many family, friends, and neighbors have benefited from the services of West Texas Rehab.

In Robert Lee, the '64 Study Club will be at Ivey Motor Company to receive calls of pledges and to pick up donations for those wishing to give cash or check. Call 453-2715 or 453-4561 in Robert Lee.

In Bronte, Pat Martindale and Diane Luckett will be manning the phones. Call 473-4721. Donors' names will be called into the telethon every thirty minutes. The phones will be open at 6:00 pm.

Some of the programs provided by West Texas Rehab are Audiology and Hearing Aid Services, Home Medical Equipment Services, Hospice Care, Industrial Rehabilitation, Occupational Therapy, Orthotics and Prosthetics, Pain Management, Parent Case Management, Pediatric Services, Physical Therapy, Speech and Language Pathology and Social Services.

Coke County Junior Livestock Show



January 20-21, 2006

Sterling Lindsey Memorial Exhibition Hall • Robert Lee

New voting machines available for public's inspection

One of the new electronic voting machines is set up in the Commissioners Courtroom at the Coke County Courthouse in Robert Lee. The public is urged to stop by during normal business hours anytime before early voting begins February 21st to familiarize themselves with the new machine. Any group or community organization who would like to have the machines demonstrated for their members are encouraged to contact the Coke County Clerk's office at 453-2631 to schedule a demonstration.

The voting machine will be available for viewing at the Bronte City Hall during their annual Open House Wednesday, January 25, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. On Thursday, January 26, from 9 am until 12 noon, the voting machine will be at the Bronte Senior Center.

FSA office taking signups for 2006

The Coke-Sterling FSA office is currently taking sign-up applications for the Farm Crop Program (DCP) for the 2006 crop year.

Producers must sign up each year to participate in the farm program.

The office started taking sign-ups for 2006 in November.

Producers must have a correct and completed CCC-502 (Pay Limit) on file with the office before any payments can be made.

Producers have until June 1, 2006 to sign up in DCP. After June 1st, producers may still sign up but there will be a \$100.00 administrative fee per farm applied.

Due to the situation of having only 2 employees in the office, it is a must for everyone to make an appointment. There are many days when, due to illness, meetings, field work, vacation time, doctor appointments, there is only one person in the office. There have been some days when the office was forced to close early due to unforeseen events. There is nothing that can be done about this. If you live out of town, it will be in your best interest to call ahead and make an appointment.

Producers may come by the office or call (325) 453-2751 for additional information.

SkyWarn class being offered

A SkyWarn class will be held Saturday, January 28, from 9 am to 1:30 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in San Angelo.

The class is free and will be held on the subject of how to learn how to

spot severe weather.

The class is being given by the National Weather Service.

RLVFD slates bake sale

The Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary will have a bake sale on Friday, January 20, 2006, beginning at 9:30 am at the Robert Lee State Bank. All proceeds will go to the fire department. Due to recent wildfires the department has some extra expenses such as tires for the fire trucks and reprogramming radios so they can communicate with the other area fire departments. Some wonderful local bakers have volunteered to make items. If you would like to donate baked goods, please call Barbara Sparks (453-2087) or Katie Drennan (453-2343).

WVFD varmint calling contest set

The Water Valley Volunteer Fire Department will hold their annual varmint calling contest on Jan. 28-29 for Tom Green and surrounding counties.

For more information, call 325-484-3388 or 325-484-2405.

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Robert Lee Care Center

Happenings! *The Robert Lee High School Beta Club and Spanish Club recently served refreshments and sang Christmas carols at the December birthday party for*

the residents of the Robert Lee Care Center. Students attending the party were (from l. to r.) Heather Williams, Briana Longoria, Analy Gallegos, Rosa Rojas, John Eads, Dixie Johnson, Stephanie Trejo, Julie Samaniego, Jesse Eads, Erica O'Neil, Carolina Vera, Will Parker, and Sergio Rocha. (Spanish Club sponsor is Elena Sanchez, Beta Club sponsors are Kathy McCown and Frankie Gartman.)

Robert Lee Methodist Church
slates five week study

Beginning January 29, 2006, Robert Lee First United Methodist Church will be starting a 5 week Study on Early Church in the Holy Land and Turkey. This study was filmed on location. The session will be held each Sunday evening at 6:00 pm in the Church Fellowship Hall.

For more information, call Jeanette Jacobs at 453-2417.

BHRC Auxiliary meeting changed

BHRC Auxiliary has changed their meeting to Tuesday, January 24th at 12:45 pm. Please make plans to attend this meeting. The Auxiliary needs all members to be there if possible. Also, please call Lanette or Marilyn at 473-6791 by Monday if you are planning to attend. Lunch will be provided for all members.

Valentine supper set February 9

A Valentine supper will be held at the Robert Lee Senior Center on Thursday, February 9, 2006, from 6 to 8 pm.

There will be a potluck meal of soup, salad, and desserts. Please call and RSVP at 453-4780 or on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday mornings at 453-2314. Also, knowing what dish you would like to contribute will also assist in the planning.

Coke County Food Pantry Memorials/Donations

Memorials

- Dale Brown**
- Kenneth & Kay Lackey
- Teddy Holt**
- Ben & Mary Bessent
- Ronnie Fox**
- Ben & Mary Bessent
- Douglas Ditmore**
- Nina Brewer

In Honor of:

- Bonita Copeland**
- Faith Fidelis Class
- Donations**
- Mr. & Mrs. Dan McNabb, Robert Lee Baptist Church, Fred & Mary Williams, Milburn Wink, Inez & Kenneth Harper, Frances Lindsey, Dale & Sue Wojtek, Coke County Library Patrons, Robert Lee Elementary Food Drive, Kenneth & Nancy Rasco, Hochheim Prairie Insurance Company, Bivins Insurance, Robert Lee Baptist TEL & Divine Singles Sunday

School Class, Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Todd Albert, Robert Lee Community Christmas Program, Grady Coulter & Add Davis Families, Bronte Elementary Food Drive, Fred & Glenda Taylor, Billy Wayne & Dolores Roe, Jeanie Galloway, 64 Study Club, George Snapp, Mark Wright, Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Bickley, Jamie Boren, Bronte OES, C.E. Blount, Elton & Fredna Moore, United Methodist Women, Envelope Offerings, Karen Rasco, Coke County Courthouse Can Drive, Northside Church of Christ, Bill & Judy Gibbs, Joe & Donna Ash.

Volunteers: Joan Burns, Marilyn & Joe White, Fred & Glenda Taylor, Jeanette Jacobs, Dolores Roe, Milburn Wink, Fred & Mary Williams, Pat Carwile, George Snapp, and Mary Bessent.

Comedy Sisters Coming to Robert Lee!

The Brady Girls - Town & Country Motivational Comedy Presentation - is slated for Robert Lee Friday, January 27, beginning at 6:30 pm in the RLHS auditorium. The evening will benefit the Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District through donations at the door. These ladies will have you laughing, crying perhaps, and looking at your own situation with a different perspective. In mid-life, they switched places, one who lived in the country became an executive for a major corporation in a large city and travels the globe. The other, a successful real estate agent and business owner in Texas who traveled extensively, now lives in the country near Bend, Oregon. Their experiences provide for a very entertaining and insightful presentation. For more information, contact Donna Waldrop at 453-2623, ext. 3.



Area Churches
Invite You to Worship

Bronte Church of Christ
 PO Box 346 • 118 S. Jefferson
 Bronte
 (325) 473-3291
 Preacher John V. Driggers
 Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

Central Baptist Church
 324 S. Franklin • Bronte
 (325) 473-4811
 Tim White, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am Sunday School
 11 am & 6 pm Worship
 Wed. 6 pm

Emmanuel Pentecostal
 PO Box 683 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy
 Robert Lee
 (325) 453-2360
 Rev. Ray Aldridge, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

First Baptist Church
 424 S. Washington • Bronte
 (325) 473-2331
 Bro. Morris Johnson, Pastor
 Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,
 10:55 am Worship, 6 pm Youth
 and Worship
 Wednesday 7 pm Prayer Meeting

First United Methodist Church
 Corner of Washington & Holmes
 Bronte
 (325) 473-3281
 Rev. Larry Tianen
 Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship
 5:00 Youth

First United Methodist Church
 PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne
 Robert Lee
 (325) 453-2417
 Rev. Steve Rowe, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am Sunday School
 11 am Worship
 Wed. 7 pm Choir

Iglesia Bautista Bethel
 101 Houston • Robert Lee
 (325) 453-5003 • 453-2296
 Pastor: Basilio Esquivel
 Sun. 9:45, 11:00, & 11:30 am
 & 6 pm, Wednesday 7 pm

Northside Church of Christ
 PO Box 388 • 9th & Chadbourne
 Robert Lee
 (325) 655-9784 or 453-2685
 Portis Ribble, Minister
 Services: Sun. 10 am & 1:30 pm;
 Wed. 6 pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
 601 W. 10th, Robert Lee
 (325) 365-2687
 Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor
 Sat. 6 pm

Pecan Baptist
 PO Box 542 • 12 miles West of Robert Lee
 on Sterling City Hwy • (325) 453-2004
 Rev. Richard Easterling, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship

Robert Lee Baptist Church
 PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th
 (325) 453-2724
 Bro. Mike Poye, Pastor
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship
 Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting

Southside Church of Christ
 PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston
 Robert Lee
 (325) 453-2176
 Frank J. Daniels, Preacher
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 6 pm, Worship
 Wed. 7 pm, Worship

Tennyson Baptist Church
 Hwy 277 • Tennyson
 Joe Hodges, Pastor
 (325) 473-2040
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
 11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship
 Wed. 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting

Victory Assembly of God
 PO Box 638 • 6th & Houston
 Robert Lee
 (325) 453-2208
 Rev. Irene Ford, Pastor
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
 10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship
 Wed. 6 pm, Prayer Meeting

Bronte City Hall

2006 New Year Open House

Wednesday, January 25
3:30 to 5:30

Come and celebrate the beginning of a new year!

Bird's book on Sanco now available

[Editor's Note: The following article was originally in the January 4th issue of the Rockport Pilot, the newspaper in Rockport, Texas.]

Former postmaster pens book about town's people

By Norma Martinez
Managing Editor
Rockport Pilot

As a 17-year postmaster in Sanco, from 1947 to 1964, she would hear stories about the history of the community. She wrote these tales down and used them recently to complete a book, *Our Sanco People*.

Josephine Rorex Bird was born in Panhandle, Texas in 1909. Her husband, the late Ulmer Bird, was born in Sanco, the community about which the book is written.

Josephine explained Ulmer was assigned pastor at the Panhandle Methodist Church when she was a junior in high school. Two years later they were married.

During the first few years of their marriage, Josephine attended Hardin Simmons University taking what she calls, "a smorgasbord of classes."

Josephine said she didn't think they would stay long enough for her to earn a degree so she wanted to absorb as much information as she could.

She was able to attend for about three semesters before they moved.

Later, in 1947, they moved to Sanco where she began her tenure as postmaster. The town is located in a bend of Yellow Wolf Creek in Coke County, 40 miles north of San Angelo.

Josephine said she isn't a writer, claiming her husband to be the one with the gift of writing.

However, while she worked as postmaster, Sanco residents would come in the post office and tell her stories about the community's early families, as well as about the Comanches who inhabited the area.

Josephine said Ulmer also took notes, documents which she kept over the years.

Her husband passed away in 1988 and in 1989, she moved to Rockport at the urging of her sister, local artist Evelyn Atkinson.

At that time, Josephine said she was living on a ranch about nine miles from Robert Lee.

The soon-to-be author said she stayed awake all night before making the decision to move, coming to the realization she didn't need to be living alone that far away from other people.

The book-writing venture began about three years ago when she was contacted by a woman in Sanco who wanted to collaborate with Josephine.

They started out working together, but it began to take longer to compile the material than they had originally believed. With one writer in Sanco and one in Rockport, the collaboration soon ended, and Josephine continued on her own.

She later enlisted the aid of her niece in Corpus Christi to get the manuscript completed.

The first printing of the book, *Our Sanco People*, is comprised of 300 copies which just came



Josephine Bird

out this month.

The book features 117 stories about thrifty, determined and resourceful people who carved out a free life in west Texas. Revenues from the book will be donated to the Sanco Cemetery, Josephine said.

She adamantly emphasizes she is not a writer, but a "compiler", adding the book is a compilation of her notes and her husband's writings. She said he deserves the credit because many of his stories are included.

The Robert Lee Independent School District's librarian, in the town nearest to Sanco, is very interested in the book for historical purposes.

Josephine also hopes to send a copy to the West Texas Collection at Angelo State University.

Anyone interested in reading about the Sanco community can find copies of *Our Sanco People* at Pat's Place, 415 S. Austin St., Robert Lee.

To order copies of the book, mail a check for each copy in the amount of \$30, which covers shipping and handling, to: Josephine R. Bird, 1014 N. Allen Street, Rockport, Texas 78382-3106.

Let the bidding begin-NOW

Though the 36th annual telethon benefiting West Texas Rehabilitation Center will not be aired until January 21, the telethon auction website is up and open for bids on more than 400 retail items and dozens of handmade quilts and afghans. Interested bidders may log on at www.westtexasrehab.org.

A boat, a jeep, four-wheelers and a quad cab pickup truck. Baseball, golf, auto racing passes, Elvis collectibles and Red Raider autographed balls. Quilts, artwork, diamonds, furniture, hunts and week-end getaways. Whatever your passion or pastime, chances are good it's up for bid, thanks to generous donations from businesses and individuals.

Auction bidding will continue on-line until midnight on January 21. That's also the deadline for telephone bidding, which is pos-

sible from 6 pm to midnight on January 21 by dialing toll free 1-866-219-7013. Items also will be featured on that date in a pull-out section of the San Angelo Standard-Times and Abilene Reporter-News.

While keeping tabs on bids, viewers will want to tune into Rehab 2006, the five-hour live television special starring popular country duo The Bellamy Brothers as well as Charlie Chase, Kristy Lee and Red Steagall. The show will air on KLST-TV as well as regional stations across the state.

And while all the activity is going on in the Abilene Civic, site of the live television production, Concho Valley phone bank volunteers will be set up in area communities that night.

Coke County Food Pantry continues to serve those in need

In 2005, 3,771 people were given food at the food pantry. That number translates into over 36,000 pounds of food that has come through the pantry this year. America's Second Harvest compiled figures that state that every pound of food equals 4 meals. The people of Coke County provided approximately 156,000 meals served with food given or cash donations.

The Coke County Food Pantry serves residents of Coke County who can provide proof of a physical address within the county. The Coke County Food Pantry receives no money from Federal or State agencies. As the cost of living rises, there are those who continue to need help.

The Pantry is open each Wednesday from 2-5 pm and is located at 710 Washington in Robert Lee. Residents of Bronte and Blackwell area needing transportation to Robert Lee may meet the Thunderbird Van at the old depot in Bronte. The van departs about 2:45 so riders need to be at the pick-up station between 2:30 and 2:40 pm.

Memorials or donations may be mailed to Coke County Food Pantry, Box 1299, Robert Lee, TX 76945 or may be given to Joan Burns or Mary Bessent. Cards acknowledging your gift or memorial will be sent to the person(s) designated by the donor.

SUPER H

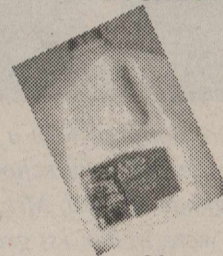
Texas Lotto Tickets Sold Here
WIC Cards Welcome
ATM Available



501 Commerce - Robert Lee, TX
Store Hrs: Mon.-Sat. 8-8 Sun. 8-6
SPECIALS GOOD 1/18 Thru 1/24
LIMIT RIGHTS RESERVED

Fryer Leg Quarters
\$2.99
10 Lb. Bag

Shurfine or ShurSaving
Premium Quality • Whole or Lowfat
Select Varieties



Milk
2 Gal. Jug / \$5

New Crop Large Seedless
Red Grapes
lb. **\$.99**

Assorted Varieties • Reg. \$3.49 Size

Doritos®
Chips
3 9-13.5 oz. bag / \$6



Garden Fresh

Roma Tomatoes
7/\$1

Regular, Light or Select

Budweiser
20 pk. longneck bottles
Beer
\$13.59



Natural Light 30 pack **\$16.79**

Miller Lite • Regular or Light

Coors
20 pk Bottles
Beer
\$13.59



Keystone Light 30 pack **\$16.79**

Pepsi or Dr Pepper



3 12 pk. 12 oz. cans / \$10

BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS



Class of 2005! The Bronte seniors were honored with a progressive dinner for a Christmas party. The evening began with a hay ride from the school to Riley Coalson's house where appetizers were served. The class' first grade teacher, Mrs. Susan Graves, read them the book she gave them for Christmas when they were in her 1st grade class. The students exchanged gifts in a special activity during this reading. Next, they enjoyed an entree of fajitas at Reese Braswell's home. The evening drew to a close with dessert at Cheyenne Webb's house where the class decorated Christmas cookies. Memories made on this special evening will be treasured with a maroon ornament every senior took home signed by each of their classmates. Attending the party were (seated, from left) Megan Gibbs, Cheyenne Webb, Rebecca Rawlings, Mrs. Graves, C. T. Lloyd, Riley Coalson, (standing, from left) Lilly McMullan, Curtis Moore, Zach White, Garrett Acker, Jaylon Saunders, Reese Braswell, Sarah Basquez, (not pictured) Lindsey Butler, Bailey Saunders, and Melissa Palmer.



Breakfast

- Monday, Jan. 23**
Cereal, pineapple tidbits, toast, jelly, milk
- Tuesday, Jan. 24**
Sausage roll, assorted juice, milk
- Wed., Jan. 25**
Grilled cheese sandwich, assorted juice, milk
- Thurs., Jan. 26**
Scrambled eggs, assorted juice, toast, jelly, milk
- Friday, Jan. 27**
Breakfast pizza, assorted juice, milk

Lunch

- Monday, Jan. 23**
Sausage links, black eyed peas, macaroni & cheese, cinnamon apples, tortilla, sugar cookies, milk
- Tuesday, Jan. 24**
Spaghetti, sweet corn, tossed salad, sliced peaches, bread sticks, milk
- Wed., Jan. 25**
Enchiladas, pinto beans, Spanish rice, apple, crackers, cinnamon crisp, milk
- Thurs., Jan. 26**
Pigs in a blanket, pork & beans, tator tots, banana, milk
- Friday, Jan. 27**
Ham & cheese sandwich, lettuce, tomato, pickle, apple crisp, chips, ice cream cup, milk

Bronte Longhorn basketball results

The Bronte Longhorns defeated Novice by a score of 69-22. Bronte stats: Riley Coalson 6 pts., Zach White 12 pts., Logan Rawls 16 pts., 7 rebounds, 6 steals, 4 assists, Albert Force 6 pts., 3 steals, Philip Rawlings 1 pt., 4 steals, 6 assists, Jonathan Marrs 6 pts., Johnathan Ehl 2 pts., Jaylon Saunders 1 pt., Adam Halfacer 9 pts., 7 rebounds, Garrett Acker 3 pts., and Brett Wills 2 pts.

The Longhorns defeated the Steers by a score of 35-29. Bronte stats: Riley Coalson 2 pts., Zach White 2 pts., Logan Rawls 13 pts., 11 rebounds, 4 steals, Eric Hendrickson 7 pts., 7 rebounds, Albert Force 5 pts., 4 assists, Philip Rawlings 2 pts., and Brett Wills 4 pts.

Bronte Jr. High boys basketball results

In the Robert Lee Tournament on the 14th, the Bronte 7th grade boys basketball team won against Miles 41-10. Bronte scoring: Heath Richey 18, Kerwin Rawls 7, Dakota Rawls 2, Chase Harris 2, Hadley Holland 10, and Jake Cotter 2.

Bronte defeated Eden by a score of 39-8. Bronte scoring: Heath Richey 9, Kerwin Rawls 1, Dakota Rawls 10, Arlis McMullan 2, Hadley Holland 12, Terron Charles 3, and Thomas Foster 2.

On the 16th, Bronte defeated Winters by a score of 45-29. Bronte scoring: Heath Richey 11, Kerwin Rawls 5, Dakota Rawls 11, Arlis McMullan 1, Hadley Holland 11, Terron Charles 4, and Skyler York 2.

The next game will be at Miles on Jan. 23rd.

The Bronte 8th grade boys basketball team was defeated by Winters 39-16. Bronte scoring: Audie Miller 2, Kolten Pena 2, Jacob Scott 4, Rob Rosson 5, and Haydan White 3.

Bronte JV boys basketball results

On January 13, the Robert Lee Junior Varsity boys basketball team defeated the Bronte JV, 36-30. Scoring for Bronte were: Sam Rawlings 9, Reece Springer 2, Cody Wallace 2, Paul McConnell 7, C.J. McClure 3, and Mathew Allen 7.

BISD board meets in regular session

The Bronte ISD Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on January 12, 2006, at 7:00 pm in the board room. Those in attendance were Wayne Coalson, Jeff Schoenfield, Gary Acker, Terry Charles, Kendall Gibbs, Scott Frasier, and Alan Richey, Superintendent. Also present were Michael Bohensky, Terry Marrs, Rick Howell, Burl Lowery, Gina McCutchen, and Nancy

Cooper. Absent was Bob Frazee.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Terry Marrs.

Burl Lowery presented the 2004-2005 audit to the board.

January is School Board Recognition month and the theme this year is Building Brighter Futures. Alan Richey, Superintendent, praised the board for their excellent work and presented them with a certificate and a flashlight.

Michael Bohensky, CCJJC Principal, Rick Howell, Secondary Principal, and Terry Marrs, Elementary Principal, gave their reports. The board approved the Early Release Dates for this year: March 23, March 30, April 13, May 5, May 19, and May 25. The board approved Update 77 and discussed Open Meeting Training and House Bill 914 Disclosure Training.

Alan Richey, Superintendent, gave a funding update, a facilities update and reported the resurfacing of the track is complete. The golf course was discussed and Mr. Richey gave a Board Election Update. The election will be held on May 13, 2006. Filing dates are February 11, 2006 thru March 13, 2006. The terms for Wayne Coalson, Jeff Schoenfield, and Bob Frazee are up.

The board completed the Superintendent's evaluation.

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 11:10 pm.

Coke County Retired Teachers enjoy noon luncheon

The Coke County Retired Teachers Association convened Monday, Jan. 16, 2006 at the First Baptist Church in Bronte for a noon luncheon.

Beth Prather, president, presided at the meeting. Jerry Horn was welcomed as a new member.

Janet Wommack, secretary, also District XV Health Care chairman, collected total steps taken by members for the past year. Nina Brewer, Community Services, collected total volunteer hours from unit members.

Paul Gothard, legislative chairman, reported on top priorities chosen by local members in a recent poll.

A slate of new officers was unanimously elected. The

following officers will be installed in May: William Hood, president, Beth Prather, vice president, Janet Wommack, secretary, Sug Lawhon, treasurer, and Wanda Barbee, parliamentarian.

Attending the meeting were 19 members and two guests. Members present were: C.B. Barbee, Wanda Barbee, Emma Lee Bickley, Jimmy Bickley, Jamie Boren, Nina Brewer, Judy Gibbs, Kay Gothard, Paul Gothard, June Gulley, Jerry Horn, Mimzi Horn, Sug Lawhon, Ida Lou Oliphant, Beth Prather, Gerald Sandusky, Brenda Wilke, Janet Wommack, Lee Wommack. Guests present were: Rick Howell and Alan Richey.


Check Out Coke County Library

Some people think good health stops at the neck, but in light of the recent studies of Alzheimer's, more attention is being focused on maintaining the brain as well as the body.

In studies of dementia, one set of researchers looked at 107 pairs of twins, in which one of the two suffered mental decline in old age while the other did not. The twin who participated more actively in leisure activities, like reading and movie-going, during early adulthood and midlife was less likely to suffer from Alzheimer's or another type of dementia in old age.

From the Maintain Your Brain portion of the www.alz.org Web site, the following activities are suggested to maintain the brain: Stay curious and involved; commit to lifelong learning; read, write, work crossword or other puzzles; attend lectures and plays; volunteer in civic endeavors; play games; garden; and do memory exercises.

The Coke County Library is a gymnasium for the brain. Library hours are Tuesday, 8-12; Wednesdays, 8-4; Thursdays, 1-5; Fridays, 8-12. Books may be returned in Bronte to the Main Street Market and to the 24/7 book drop on the porch of the library.

GLENN-BIVINS INSURANCE

 See us for your auto insurance.
 123 W. Main Bronte 473-6791

Paul's Body Shop
 Don't let the insurance company dictate who repairs your vehicle. It's your choice!
PAUL KNIGHT
 123 N. State Bronte, Texas
 Office (325) 473-2425 • Home (325) 473-2026
 Cell (325) 450-2281

ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS



Robert Lee High School Junior Class Officers! Robert Lee High School Junior class officers for the 2005-2006 school year are: Cody McCabe (President), Becca Skinner (Vice-President), Brettne Reed (Treasurer), Dixie Johnson (Student Council Rep.), Jaden Alexander (Secretary) and Eleasar Vera (Student Council Representative).

RLJH boys basketball results

In the Robert Lee Jr. High "B" team basketball tournament held on January 14th, Winters defeated Robert Lee 29-6. Scoring for Robert Lee: Josh Rowoldt 5 pts., and Ivan Landeros 1 pt.

The Sterling City "B" boys defeated the Robert Lee "B" boys 15-13 in overtime. J.P. Conner hit his first three pointer ever at a timely moment to help tie the score and send the game to overtime. Scoring for Robert Lee: Greg Gonzales 4 pts., Ivan Landeros 4 pts., J.P. Conner 3 pts., and Josh Rowoldt 2 pts.

On the 9th, the "B" team played Irion County boys at Mertzon and lost 17-8. Scoring for Robert Lee: Ivan Landeros 6 pts., and Josh Rowoldt 2 pts.

The "A" team lost a close game 35-34. Scoring for Robert Lee: Logan Philley 4 pts., Blake Millican 9 pts., Cayetano Carrera 3 pts., Cody Brosh 11 pts., Diego Saucedo 2 pts., and Stetson Nesbit 6 pts.

School Menu



Breakfast

- Monday, Jan. 23**
Juice, muffin, cereal, milk
- Tuesday, Jan. 24**
Juice, pigs in blanket, cereal, milk
- Wed., Jan. 25**
Juice, French toast, sausage, cereal, milk
- Thurs., Jan. 26**
Juice, pop tart, cereal, milk
- Friday, Jan. 27**
Juice, cinnamon roll, cereal, milk

Lunch

- Monday, Jan. 23**
Fajitas, salad, chili beans, Spanish rice, pineapple, milk
- Tuesday, Jan. 24**
Chicken nuggets, mac & cheese, green beans, sliced bread, pears, milk
- Wed., Jan. 25**
Corn dog, tator tots, pork & beans, strawberry shortcake, milk
- Thurs., Jan. 26**
Chicken fried steak, creamed potatoes, green peas, sliced bread, peaches, milk
- Friday, Jan. 27**
Hot dog w/chili, cheese, fritos, pork & beans, fruit cocktail, milk

Robert Lee varsity girls basketball results

On the 10th, Robert Lee defeated Santa Anna in a very close game by a score of 44-43. Robert Lee scoring: Jaden Alexander 5, Kyla Millican 2, Kelsy Duncan 2, Megan Percifull 1, Brettne Reed 4, Cara Eaton 6, Cassidy Wink 19, and Becca Skinner 5.

On the 13th, Robert Lee defeated Bronte 45-28. Robert Lee scoring: Alexander 2, Millican 2, Duncan 10, Percifull 2, Reed 6, Eaton 4, Wink 13, and Skinner 6.

At the end of 1st round of district play, Robert Lee is 5-2.

RLHS Spanish Club calendars behind in production

RLHS Spanish Club birthday calendars will be here the latter part of January. They are running somewhat behind in production but are working diligently to fill our orders. The calendar will run from February 2006 through January 2007. Sorry for any inconveniences this may have caused.

Fire victims benefit supper slated

All of the Robert Lee High School clubs/organizations are planning a 'fund-raiser' meal Tuesday, February 7, before the basketball game with Bronte. The profits from this dinner will be donated to the Cross Plains fire victims and/or other West Texas wildfire victims, as well as local residents needing medical funds. Nationally recognized Chef Henri Weins will be doing the cooking and the plans are to serve Mexican Food. There will also be a silent auction. Watch



Robert Lee Varsity Lady Steers Win Tourney! The Robert Lee High School Varsity Lady Steers have been quite successful-recently in tournament play. The Lady Steers won the Blackwell Tournament and received the Consolation Trophy at the Sterling City Tournament. The Ladies posted a 5-2 district record after the first round of district play.

for details as the game nears.

Make your plans to enjoy the meal and help our fellow small town residents.

Donations have been sent for hurricane disaster relief and RLHS Clubs thank the community for help with this endeavor.

College tuition assistance offered

A conservative estimate of college costs for a full-time student runs from \$10,000-\$30,000; high cost colleges can run from \$40,000-\$100,000! Most parents and students think that scholarships are only for the students with excellent grades, low-income families, or the athletically inclined. A small example of the numerous scholarships available to students include: Handicapped Student Scholarships, Members of a Church Scholarships, Scholarships for "C" Students, Veteran Children's Scholarships, Scholarships for Minorities and much, more.

Though the majority of scholarships are from the Federal Government and are merit and/or need-based, millions of dollars are available to students from private sector scholarships. Much of

private sector financial aid goes unused because the parents and students do not know how or where to apply.

There are organizations that have spent hundreds of hours in research locating scholarship sources. The U.S. Commission for Scholastic Assistance-College Bound is such an organization and supplies the public with over 1000 different private scholarships sources. The scholarship list includes the scholarship

names, addresses, application deadlines, summaries about the scholarships and the amount the scholarship will pay your child.

Many scholarships pay the entire tuition; others can be applied towards tuition, living expenses, and/or other fees. Most scholarships can be used at junior colleges, career and vocational schools, 4 year colleges, graduate schools, medical and law schools.

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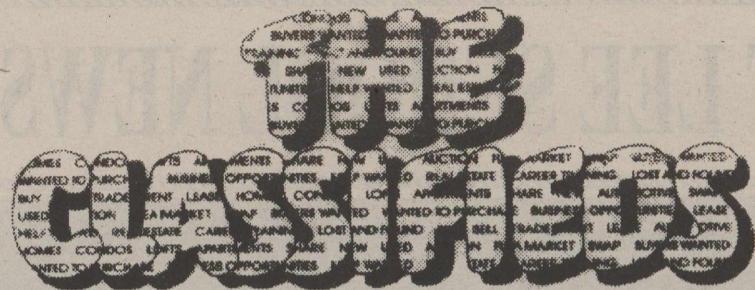
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453-2545



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\$2.50 Minimum


Legal Notices:
25¢ Per Word

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

ADVERTISING DEADLINE
Tuesdays at 2 pm

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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



FOR SALE

COMPUTERS
New and Used. Repairs, upgrades, internet service. Ed Martindale, 473-3004. 22-tnc

FOR SALE
4 bedroom, 1 bath, CA/CH, single carport, new roof, fenced backyard at 101 East Jones in Bronte. 473-2221. 09-tnc

FOR SALE
253.12 acres pasture farm land, good hunting. Old 2 BR house, 2 miles NW of Bronte. 254-799-7426 (Waco). 25-3tc

FOR SALE
3 lots, with 25 x 45 metal bldg., elec., water, & sewer. 413 S. Franklin, Bronte. 325/282-4481. 25-2tc

HANDYMAN CONSTRUCTION
LICENSED ELECTRICIAN • INSURED & BONDABLE ANY TYPE OF JOB

TOMMY WILLIAMS
ROBERT LEE, TX
325-453-4477
MOBILE: 325-277-7370

Political Calendar
The Observer/Enterprise
has been authorized to make the following announcements for the political offices in Coke County.

Each candidate or the campaign treasurer has paid for his or her announcement. All political advertising, announcements, and printing is cash in advance.

COKE COUNTY JUDGE
Roy Blair
Hal Spain

COKE COUNTY TREASURER
Phelan Wrinkle
Andra Arrott

COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2
Bill Wheat
Robert Feil
Clint Porter

COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4
George Snapp
Bobby Blaylock

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 1
D. Joan Davis

COKE COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR
Josie Dean

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 1
Marshall Millican

FOR SALE
3 BR, 1 BA home in Bronte. Large yard, very clean, fully furnished and ready to move in. Call Joe Stephens, Realtor, Coldwell Banker Patterson Properties, 325/234-1099, or evenings 325/896-2190. Webpage cbpatterson.com; email jstephensrealtor@zipnet.us. 26-1tc

FOR SALE
house & furnished trailer in Robert Lee. 944-8990. 26-4tc

Bob Frazee's 944-0010
473-6603

Texas Best
Deflooding & Carpet Cleaning



24 hr. Emergency Water Damage Service

HANDYMAN SERVICES
Flat Repair • Vehicle Service • Equipment Rental

402 Commerce • Robert Lee
325/453-2797 • 453-4477
FAX 453-4690

FOR RENT

FOR RENT
Nice, 3 BR, 2 full bath, single car garage, fenced yard. Across street from Robert Lee school. No inside pets. 453-2775. 19-tnc

FOR LEASE
Large shop with office & restroom on over 350' of Hwy 277 frontage in Bronte. Call 325/439-1051. \$500/month. 27-tnc

NICE! NEW! BRICK!
3 bedroom 2 1/2 baths
2 bedroom 2 baths
Now Available!
Call: 325-473-3105 for information or 325-473-9548
Santa Fe Crossing Duplexes
320 SE Railroad
Bronte, Texas 76933
44-51tp

MISCELLANEOUS

THE ROBERT LEE HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH CLUB is selling chances to win a Super bowl basket. The proceeds will go to benefit the scholarship fund. The basket will be filled with lots of goodies. Chances are 1 chance for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00. 2 baskets will be given away during half-time of the boy's basketball game Tuesday, January 31, 2006. Tickets may be purchased from any Spanish Club member. 26-1tc

BOY SCOUTS SPAGHETTI SUPPER at the First Methodist Church in Bronte on Jan. 28th, 11:30-2:30. They will be earning money for summer camp. 26-1tp

TREES
Topped, trimmed or removed, Shrubs-brush. Call George Grim 453-9902 after 5. 08-tnc

AM INTERESTED in maintaining rural cemeteries or cemetery plots. Call George Grim at 453-9902 after 5:00 for scheduled or as needed maintenance. 08-tnc

PARKER PLUMBING Residential & Commercial. All types plumbing repair - new construction, remodeling, fixtures, and sewer service. Licensed Master Plumber. 473-2131, Bronte. 34-tnc



BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED 3+ ACRES with this 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath Home! Shop, Carports, Guest House, Covered Parking for RV, Storm Shelter! Top-of-the-line stainless appliances and plasma screen TV may stay! \$90 s

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JOE ASH www.amcwesttexasranches.com MARSHALL MILlicAN
473-0164 MOBILE • 453-2554 HOME 473-0437 MOBILE • 453-9002 HOME

Blackwell, Extremely nice 1,661 sq. ft. Brick Home with 3 BR, 2 BA, CA/CH, single car garage and carport, 13 x 21 brick shop, storm cellar and covered patio.

Robert Lee
New Listing, 3 BR, 2 BA Home, 1,715 sq. ft., CA/CH, Single Carport, 24 x 31 metal with concrete floor, RV cover, back porch view.

New Listing on 10 Acres, 3 BR, 2 BA Home, 2,240 sq. ft., Vaulted Ceilings, Fireplace, Dining Room, Large Bathroom with Jacuzzi Tub, 31 x 60 and 25 x 35 metal buildings.

It's Fresh, 4 BR, 2 BA, 2 story home, secluded, near Lake Spence on a large lot

Less than 1 year old, 1984 sq. ft. Home, 3 BR, 2 BA, Vaulted ceiling in Living Area, Master Suite w/ "Oasis" Bath, Office w/built-in desk, 2 car carport w/storage, landscaped

Very nice Brick Home with 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 Living Areas, Extra room for Office/Game Room, 2 car garage, 2 car carport, Privacy Fence.

Close to School! 3 BR, 2 BA home with extra room, CA/CH, 2 car carport, on corner lot.

Brick Veneer Home with 3 BR, 2 Bath, over 2560 sq. ft. Large living area with fireplace. Formal dining and living area, 14' x 16' shop.

Very Nice Office Building Prime location. Landscaped with additional lots.

Other Listings Available

Acresage
1023 +/- Acres, Will Divide, All pasture and flat to rolling terrain with deep creeks and rough headers, 3 water wells and electricity, excellent deer hunting with turkey and quail

884 +/- AC. 150 ac. in cultivation, 172 ac. improved pasture, 2 water wells, 2 tanks, barn, good fences, excellent hunting. Black Buck Antelope.

650 +/- AC. All pasture, close to Colorado River, rolling terrain, 3 tanks, excellent hunting.

338 +/- AC. FM frontage, Rolling hills with deep creek, water well & electricity. Under wildlife management.

320 +/- AC. Secluded, rolling terrain with hills and mountainous views, older rock home. Two water wells, crossed fenced. Good hunting.

314 +/- AC. Live Oak trees on Yellow Wolf Creek, good water well, 230 ac. cultivation, good hunting.

160 +/- AC. FM road access, all pasture, water well, good dirt tank, scenic mountain views, good hunting.

125 +/- AC. **Under Contract!** All Pasture. **Under Contract!** Robert Lee. Flat to rolling terrain. Good hunting.

80 +/- Acres, Very nice ranch style home with 3 BR, 2 BA 2 Living Areas. All Steel Horse and Cattle Pens. 3 Large Barns.

77 +/- Acres, all pasture land, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, Native Rock home, garden area, Pecan trees, 3 water wells, rural water, older barn and shop.

STUMP GRINDING
You have an unsightly tree stump in your yard? We'll grind it out without leaving a hole or a mess. Richard Baker. 473-2017 (home), (325) 669-7415 (cell). 20-tnc

THE "BARBER" SHOP
Debra England, 107 W. Main, Bronte. 277-8164. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. 9 am - 5 pm. 33-tnc

HELP WANTED

TRES AMIGOS CONVENIENCE STORE
Water Valley
Cashiers/Food Service Workers
Apply in person 25-2tc

GARAGE SALES

HUGE SALE CHURCHWIDE
Furniture, clothes, inside and outside items. First Baptist Church, Bronte. 424 S. Washington, Bronte. Saturday, January 21. 8:00 am-2:00 pm. 26-1tc

CARD OF THANKS

TO ALL MY FRIENDS AND CLIENTS
Thank you so much for all of the prayers, cards, food, and phone calls over the past 3 months. I am back and will soon be 100%. Happy New Year!
James E. Smith, DVM
26-1tc

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK
our many friends and neighbors for their prayers, food, donations, flowers and love shown during our time of sorrow. A special thanks to the Robert Lee Care Center for their love and care of Tommy while she was there. To Brother Richard Easterling for being there for us and to the ladies of the Pecan Baptist Church for the lunch they prepared for us. Thank you. Words cannot express our family's appreciation to each of you for your kindness.
Lynn Davidson and family
26-1tp

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK
the Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Department, Texas Forest Service, Coke County Sheriff's Department, and all other volunteers who came to help put out the fire on our property.
Wilhelm & Barbara Spindler
26-1tc

Concho Realty
Office 653-4535

Becky Clendennen
Owner/Broker
Home 453-4748
Cell 650-9729

Melinda McCutchen
Realtor
Home 473-3201
Cell 473-8863




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NOTICES

BID NOTICE

The City of Bronte will receive sealed bids for a Fire Department Pumper. Bid specifications are available at the City Hall located at 114 South Washington, Bronte, Texas. Bids should be delivered to the City Hall or mailed to "City of Bronte, Box 370, Bronte, Texas 76933". Bids will be received until 5:00 pm on February 9, 2006. The City of Bronte reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Martin Lee, Mayor
City of Bronte
26-2tc

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF INDIGENT HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE

East Coke County Hospital District of Bronte, Tx, will provide from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 Indigent Health Care services to all eligible persons who meet the Hospital District eligibility requirements. Any resident of ECCHD 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 ECCHD 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 Bronte Health and Rehab Center. This notice is made in compliance with the plan administration for annual public notification of service availability.

26-1tc

ORDINANCE 1147

AN ORDINANCE SETTING FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE FEES, ESTABLISHING FEES

FREE FISH

For Pond, Lake and Tank Stocking
ONE WEEK ONLY

10 in. - 12 in. - 14 in. - 16 in.
& larger size fish.

Available for immediate delivery. Due to a late summer spawn in 2005, we are stuck with over 10 million 10" - 16" size fish that we must place somewhere, somehow, during the next 10 days, in order to make room for our smaller fish.

OUR LOSS IS YOUR GAIN!!

We just have too many fish to eat, and we just can't afford to feed them all until early summer when the market is better!!

You may pick and choose from: Channel Catfish, Bass, Black Crappie, Hybrid Bluegill, Coppernose Bluegill, Redear, or Triploid Grass Carp!!!

FREE DELIVERY TOO

All fish delivered direct to your pond, lake, or tank!!!

ALL FISH GUARANTEED TO LIVE, THRIVE, AND REPRODUCE.

Now is the perfect time of year to stock your ponds, lakes, and tanks for early spring fishing! All fish are big enough to catch and eat in 60 to 90 days.

Let us turn your pond, lake, or tank into a trophy fishing hole!!

Help us... and help yourself.

No Limit... No Minimum!

We'll stock any size pond, lake or tank.

CALL TODAY
ARKLA-TEXOMA FISH
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FOR SERVICES RENDERED AT VEHICLE FIRES, VEHICLE ACCIDENTS, HAZARDOUS WASTE SPILLS AND RESCUE INCIDENTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ROBERT LEE:

SECTION 1. SERVICE AND FEES

The City of Robert Lee shall assess and collect fees for certain services rendered by the Fire Department. The fees for use of vehicles and equipment are set out in Appendix A and shall be assessed and collected when such vehicles and/or equipment are used in connection with the following events or incidents:

- # Vehicle fires,
- # Vehicle accidents,
- # Hazardous material spills or releases,
- # Rescues or rescue attempts at low water crossings, and
- # Dispatch to unexpected controlled burns.

SECTION 2. THAT, the following severability clause is adopted with this ordinance:

SEVERABILITY:

That the terms and provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be severable in that if any portion of this Ordinance shall be declared to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. THAT, this Ordinance shall become effective as of January 15, 2006.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 12th day of December, 2005.

ATTEST:
City Secretary
APPROVED:
Joe V. White,

Mayor, City of Robert Lee
APPENDIX A
SERVICE FEES

The following fees shall be assessed and collected for the use of equipment and supplies as specified in Section 1.

VEHICLES

- E-1 Pumper (2 hour minimum & includes 2 man crew) \$175.00
- Trk 3 First Responder (2 hour minimum & includes 2 man crew) \$175.00
- Trk 4 Tanker (2 hour minimum & includes 2 man crew) \$175.00

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ONLY WE LL BE DOING IT FROM A NEW LOCATION

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122 N. 8th Street

We'll still be here in Ballinger to offer the services and investments you deserve, but we'll be moving to new quarters on **January 23rd.**

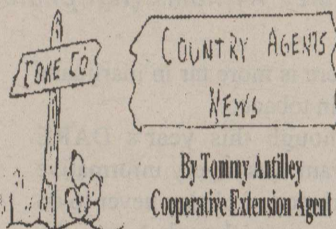
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- Trk 5 Brush (2 hour minimum & includes 2 man crew) \$175.00
 - Trk 6 Brush (2 hour minimum & includes 2 man crew) \$175.00
 - Light Plant (2 hour minimum & includes 2 man crew) \$125.00
- FIRE EQUIPMENT
FANS <PPV> \$ 55.00
SCENE LIGHTS \$ 30.00
SAWS (ALL) \$ 55.00
GLASS MASTER \$ 15.00
PORT A POWER \$150.00
SPREADERS <JAWS> \$250.00
K-12 SAW \$ 55.00
HAND TOOLS (EACH) \$ 15.00 (axe, pole, tools, shovels rakes, scoops, brooms, etc.)

26-1tc



Texas Fire Watch Continues Statewide

Much of Texas is a tinderbox right now. Texas Cooperative Extension range specialists are advising all Texans, especially landowners, to refrain from lighting any fires during work-related or other activities.

"There is no question of whether to burn: Do not light a fire for any reason," said J.F. Cadenhead, Extension range and brush control specialist based at Vernon. "Conditions are just too hazardous."

Unseasonably warm dry weather since November 2005 has sparked many wildfires in the state, scorching more than 200,000 acres, destroying or damaging more than 200 homes, and causing several fatalities.

Although prescribed burning * burning under prescribed certain conditions for specific reasons to attain certain management goals * is sometimes permitted during burn bans, potential problems caused by burning under current conditions cannot adequately be addressed by these burn plans, Cadenhead said.

"There are recognized environmental needs that must be met before and after a burn for proper rangeland recovery to occur, not to mention the safety concerns and risks to life and property," Cadenhead said.

"The prudent rangeland resource manager is reminded that rangeland health and recovery can be substantially hindered if a burn is done during droughty times on dry soils with no foreseeable moisture. Lack of grass and ground cover accelerates wind and water erosion on unprotected soils.

"Those planning and conducting the burn can only attempt to determine how 'safe' a burn can be if all goes as planned. With the current dry conditions, weather patterns and recent wildlife events causing public fear of any smoke on the horizon, most, if not all prescribed burning should be put on hold until more favorable conditions return."

Robert Pritz, Extension agent in Callahan County, had his

holidays cut short when two fires whipped through his county just after Christmas. A fire on Dec. 26 charred 2,500 acres of rangeland north of Baird. Soon after, a second fire roared through Cross Plains, claiming two lives, destroying more than 100 structures, killing livestock and burning 7,800 acres.

After dealing with these disasters, Pritz is promoting two ideas to limit future agricultural losses. The first is setting up an animal evacuation plan.

"You should have an evacuation plan not only for yourself, but for your livestock as well," Pritz said. "Know at a moment's notice what to do with your livestock if a fire does come across your place. Do you have a wheat patch or a plowed field to put them in? Whatever it is, give your animals the option to get out of the way."

"Producers here did a great job of giving their livestock that chance, which kept our livestock losses far below what they could have been. In some instances a rescue was as simple as cutting the fence and letting them run down a county road. Some of the losses reported were from people who got their cows out, but lost their calves when they missed the gate and ran into a corner where they died from the smoke."

His second idea is minimizing equipment losses. Too many people don't consider the potential for losing valuable equipment until it's too late, Pritz said.

"Where are you storing your equipment?" he said. "And put those overhead fuel tanks further away from your buildings. A lot of equipment was lost here, because it was parked in areas vulnerable to fire."

"Something else to think about is insurance on farm equipment. A lot of our guys are wishing they had it now. About the only insured equipment any of them had was that which was financed; and that's only because it was required."

"The Texas Forest Service and National Weather Service agree that extreme drought conditions are likely to persist in Texas through March, unless extraordinary winter moisture occurs soon," Cadenhead said. "We are also just now entering the worst, driest time (January through March) of our typical wildfire season."

"Many of our wildfires to date have been caused by people burning trash, celebrating the holidays with fireworks, careless handling of smoking materials, electrical sparks from wind-blown highlines and transformer shorts."

Wildfires 2006

By Marian Thompson
RL VFD Secretary
Jan. 1st, wildfire 14 miles south of Sterling City off Hwy 163. RLVFD received the call at 10:45 am. Truck 5, truck 4, and the tanker were on their way by 10:50. BVFD sent 1 truck. 12 men responded for 8 hours

each. There were approximately 50 fire trucks from all the surrounding counties, Goodfellow and even fire fighters from North Carolina, and Air Support Planes all fighting this 40,000 acre West Texas fire. There were wildfires all over the state. High gusty wind truly made it a wildfire. Bud had the new Repeater frequency installed in his radios and was able to keep in touch with the base station in Robert Lee, from the fire area. Truck 5 blew a tire and had one brought from Robert Lee. Fires are hard on tires, as the trucks must go cross country to get to the burn area. Can you imagine changing a truck tire at a wildfire with high wind, heat and smoke? They closed Hwy. 87 for a time because of the smoke. The Staging area shifted from the rest area to the convenience store and back. The heat from the fires was like standing in front of a furnace with the door open.

WCCEMS took water to our men when they were called to the scene to standby.

At 3:15, the weather service called the Sheriff's office and said that radar showed a hot spot NW of Robert Lee. This was checked out by firemen and a Deputy and turned out to be smoke from the Sterling County fire. At 5:58, we received a call that there were 2 fires in Bronte. Bud had come back to town to check out the hot spot. He was unable to get a crew, and took 2 civilians with fire experience to Bronte. Blackwell took care of the fire on the north end, Robert Lee assisted Bronte on the fire on the south end. All units were back at the station by 7:30.

January 2nd, San Angelo dispatch called for Robert Lee to send a brush truck to the Sterling County fire, at the request of the Forest Service. The crew had to change another tire before they could leave. They arrived at the command center at about 3:30. When they came back to the station at 9:45, they had 3 more flat tires.

Jan 5th. We received a call at 1:53 pm. A grass fire 10 miles north on 208. 11 firemen had this fire out by 3 pm. Fire was confined to the bar ditch. They got it out before it got into the fields. They think this fire was started by a hot catalytic converter. They then received a report of smoke at Mitchell County line. Trucks headed that way. This was a false alarm, no fire was found. All units were back at the station by 3:38.

Jan. 8th. Grass fire 13 miles west on Water Valley Hwy, top of the Divide. 14 members responded. The new repeater worked great. Communications were not interrupted by low spots or out of range. BVFD was on standby in case anything happened in Robert Lee. RLVFD had plenty of help, there was the Texas Forest Service, 2 Water Valley units, the Chief from Goodfellow, Forest Service from North Carolina, Air Support 1 flew over the area and observed the fire. They were in contact with 700 and the Forest Service. They blew one hose. One fireman came back to town to get water for the men.

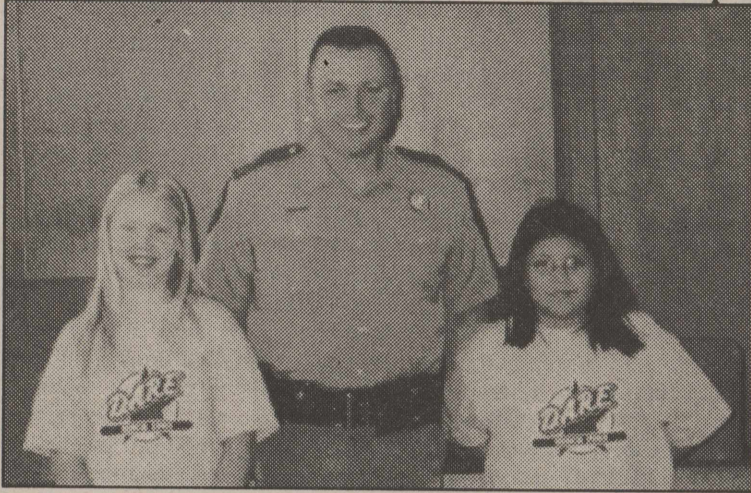
11.6 acres burned before they got it under control at 3:30. One fireman remained at the scene until the Texas Forest Service got there with the dozers to cut a fire break around the area. The firebreak was completed at 5:12 pm.

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Robert Lee, Texas

453-2522



D.A.R.E. Graduates! Scott Frasier, Texas Department of Public Safety trooper, is shown with the Robert Lee Elementary School DARE graduates December 14, 2005. Ashley Williams (left photo, left) and Sara Lara were chosen to read their essays during the ceremony.

Coke County D.A.R.E. graduation held December 14

On December 14, 2005, the 5th grade students from Robert Lee Elementary School participated along with the Bronte 5th graders in the D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony held at the Coke County Courthouse in Robert Lee. The students completed a ten week course studying the dangers of drugs. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. This prevention curriculum was taught by D.P.S. Officer Trooper Frasier.

Coke County Sheriff Rick Styles spoke to the students about remaining drug free and being the best person he/she could be. Robert Lee and Bronte are truly proud of their 5th grade-2005 D.A.R.E. graduates.

Ashley Williams and Sara Lara, representing Robert Lee, were chosen to read their D.A.R.E. essays during the D.A.R.E. ceremony. Ashley and Sara recalled their experiences during the ten week course and encouraged other students to be drug free. Their award winning essays follow.

Taking a stand

By Sara Lara

I want to tell you something about DARE that may help you in the future...

DARE can teach you things about beer, tobacco, marijuana, alcohol and peer pressure. DARE can tell you how hard it

is to say no to your friends. About 3,000 non-smokers die of lung cancer each year from inhaling other people's smoke. DARE tells you ways that you can avoid them.

Some ways are to say no and to walk away. If you think smoking is cool-think again. Marijuana smokers have an increased risk of cancer. Per serving, liquor, wine and beer all contain about the same amount of alcohol. Alcohol goes directly into the blood stream and can increase your risk for a variety of diseases. Too much alcohol can slow down the body and lead to a coma or death. Alcohol can damage every organ in your body. That is how dangerous alcohol can be to the human body. Marijuana is worse than tobacco because it contains 50%-70% more of some cancer causing chemicals than tobacco smoke.

Taking a stand

By Ashley Williams

During the past 10 weeks, I have been taking DARE. DARE stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. I learned about various kinds of drugs and what they can do to your body. I learned about tobacco, marijuana, alcohol, peer pressure, ways to be in charge, and friendship foundations.

Some facts about drugs and why they are bad for you:

Smoking is the #1 cause of lung cancer.

Drinking large amounts of alcohol can lead to a coma and death.

There is more tar in marijuana than in tobacco.

I though this year's DARE program was a very informative experience. I pledge never to do drugs, even though I may be offered some in the future.

COKE COMMENT
By Hal Spain, Publisher

Something pfishy is going on in cyberspace

Now that more folks are using the internet, including your local county newspaper, there is both good and bad news to report, concerning its success. Don't get me wrong. I don't want to go back to the "good old days" of hot type and Linotype machines. Who am I kidding? Truth is I was fortunate enough to avoid all the hot type and melted lead, and proofreading copy that was upside down and backwards. Unfortunately, the next generation of publishing, which introduced the first typesetting computers, were so large they wouldn't fit in the bed of your pickup and very expensive compared to what they could do. In addition, all the copy that was spit out by these mammoth machines was printed on Kodak typesetting paper, which had to be processed under darkroom conditions by other mammoth machines that possessed a bunch of gears and moving parts that were prone to break down.

The typesetting paper costs us about \$200/month and the

chemicals to process the film about \$100/month, just for our little weekly. Imagine what that might cost some of the dailies during this time period.

Most of these old typesetting computers would only run out one line of copy at a time, and you had to adjust the size of your type depending on what size you thought you could use in your ad. Then when you got all the copy out and processed with these caustic chemicals, you had to wash it off, hang it up to dry, and when it was thoroughly dry, you could then run it through a waxer and paste up your ad, story, headline, etc.

These old prototype computers had a history of breakdowns, also. And these were expensive and time consuming. Every time we had a breakdown, I called a guy out of Abilene, and he would tell me when he could get to me, and I had a \$300 check ready for him when he walked through the door. And that was just to get him here. The repairs were usually way more expensive than that.

You can't imagine how happy I was when desktop (plain paper) publishing came along, and we loaded up all those old mammoth machines and hauled them to the dump. That to me was the biggest revolution in publishing. All our costs concerning composition kept going down and down as Macintosh computers went lower in price. Printing costs, mainly due to the high cost of paper, have continued to escalate, as have our

mailing costs, due to postal increases.

At least part of the reason that postal costs are going up is that nobody posts a letter anymore -- at least most of us don't, anyway. The reduction in first class mail has caused the other mailers, including bulk mailers and periodical mailers (like newspapers), to pick up the cost differential.

Most everyone has started communicating via the internet, which is a wonderful thing, for the most part. I think it's great that kids now are having to use their typing skills in emails, which encourages them to try to remember what they learned in English class about sentence structure and spelling. The bad news is that kids now have their own system of Braille, where they abbreviate everything like... "RU L8 to class? and I'll B L8 tomorrow... or something to that effect.

There is also good and bad news concerning the internet and the newspaper. The last couple of weeks we have started emailing our pages to the printer; so that now when we get to San Angelo, the papers are already printed and waiting for us to bring back, instead of having to take the pages to print, wait on them to print the paper, or go back to San Angelo when they are ready, which involves two trips.

This is good news, right. Well, the bad news is that before you email those pages to the printer, you have to convert them into what we call an EPS file, whatever that is. Anyway, somehow this EPS critter didn't recognize any of our apostrophes. Additionally, where this EPS critter saw an apostrophe, it took it upon itself not only to ignore it, but to add another space in there just for good measure. To give you an example, Mrs. Simpson's dress ended up being "Mrs. Simpson s dress", and he can't read ended up being "he can t read", which really looks kind of silly, except to this EPS critter. He thinks it looks just fine.

So, we think we have identified this new little cyber glitch in our newspaper. We have since changed the font to one that the little EPS critter is more comfortable with. This seems to have done the trick for now, at least. Bottom line is I guess you gotta take the bad with the good, as far as the new technology goes. Now if we can just teach the younger generation how to spell...

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