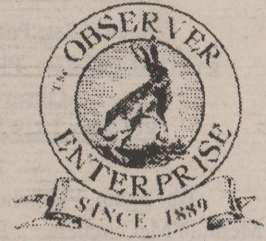


THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke & Sterling Counties



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Vol. 119, No. 24

Friday, January 5, 2007

Angel Food Ministries taking orders

The Angel Food Ministries will start taking orders on January 5, 8, 9, 10, & 11 from 3-7 pm at Central Baptist Church in Bronte.

The distribution date will be Saturday, January 27th at 3:00. For more information, contact Johnnie Andrewson 473-2124, Donna Keele 473-5341, or Joy Keele 473-6511.

They are still seeking volunteers for distribution days as well as donations to help offset operating costs.

Answers on Aging Seminar slated for Coke County

Needing to learn more about services offered by the Concho Valley Area on Aging? Needing to apply for services? Intake specialists will be available to assist with any questions you may

have. The Concho Valley Area on Aging will host seminars in Bronte and Robert Lee by Rosie Quintela and Mary Herbert on Monday, January 8, 2007. The first seminar will be at 11:15 am at the Robert Lee Senior Center, 1402 County Park Road, and the second one will be at 12 pm at the Bronte Senior Center, 613 East Oliver. Listed below are some of the services they provide: Advocacy, Benefits Counseling, Care Coordination, Caregiver Support, Foster Grandparents Program, Ombudsman Program, Senior Companion Program and 2-1-1 of the Concho Valley.

Help with College Financial Aid

Bronte High School will host a college financial aid orientation on January 10 2007, at 5:45 pm, in the Bronte High School Library.



County Officials Installed! Coke County officials receiving the oath of office on Tuesday, January 2, 2007, include (from left to right) Josie Dean - Tax Assessor/Collector, Joan Davis - Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Roy Blair - Judge, Phelan Wrinkle - Treasurer, Grady Coulter - Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2, Marshall Millican - Constable, Pct. 1, Mary Grim - County/District Clerk, Robert Feil - Commissioner, Pct. 2, and Bobby Blaylock - Commissioner, Pct. 4.



The program should last less than an hour and will cover the steps in completing the general application form (FAFSA), stress the importance of grants and scholarships, and explain the nature of student and parent loans. Refreshments will be served.

Although the presentation will focus on seniors, all students and parents are welcome and would benefit from the session. A drawing will be held for a \$100 scholar-

ship for attending seniors or those represented by a parent. For more information, call Micah Hoyt at 473-2521 ext. 119.

BISD offering free passes for Senior Citizens

Bronte ISD is offering free passes for Senior Citizens 65 and over for District basketball games. Bring proof of I.D. to Superintendent's office from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm weekdays.



THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Hal Spain, Publisher Morgan Kresta, Editor
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Obituaries



Hinnard

Thelma Jo Hinnard passed away suddenly on Wednesday, December 20, leaving behind her family and many friends. Thelma Jo was born on July 14, 1934 to Wilson and Ruby Bryan on the home place in Robert Lee, Texas.

Funeral services were held at 10 am on Saturday, December 23, 2006 at the Robert Lee Baptist Church. Burial followed in the Robert Lee Cemetery. Services were under direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

Thelma Jo attended and graduated from Robert Lee High School. She was a founding member of the '64 Study Club. Thelma Jo was also an active member of the Robert Lee Baptist Church where she taught many years as a Sunday School teacher. She also was an active member of the Coke County Pageant Association where along with Edna Havins and Mildred Wallace brought great laughter as "The Gossips."

In recent years, Thelma Jo along with her father, Wilson Bryan, and other family members and friends, decorated and hosted Bryan's Barn. This Christmas display has been enjoyed by thousands each December.

She is survived by her father, Wilson Bryan; her daughter, Cookie Burns and husband, Sid; her son, John Hinnard and wife, Lynn. She is also survived by the light of her life her grandchildren, Jeremy Burns, Molly Burns, and Kyle Hinnard, and her great grandchildren Kiara and Aden Burns. Thelma Jo also leaves her brothers, Terry Bryan, Richard Bryan, and their families as well as many special friends.

24-1tc



Rubottom

Loretta Mae Rubottom, 81, passed from this world Monday, December 25, 2006 in a local hospital, after a short illness.

Private family funeral services were held. She was laid to rest in the Robert Lee Cemetery. Services were under direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

She was born July 9, 1925 to Jesse Andrew and Pearl Mae Rubottom in Rubottom, Oklahoma. She was a Proud Native American Indian from the Choctaw Tribe of Durant, Oklahoma. She was a Baptist.

She worked and lived in the Dallas area. Where she retired in 1982 from Southwestern Bell after 36 years. In 1983, she moved to Robert Lee to be near her beloved sister, Virginia Haley.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Arthur Rubottom and her beloved sister, Virginia Haley.

She leaves behind her fam-

ily and friends.

A special thanks to Dr. Peter Chang and the Shannon Hospital 5th floor nurses, for your compassion and caring hearts.

Upon a little cloud I ascend; thus I journey upward. To a holy place I go changing as I pass through the air.

In lieu of flowers please make a memorial to the charity of your choice.

24-1tc

WCCHD Board Minutes

The West Coke County Hospital District Board of Directors met December 28, 2006, for their regular monthly meeting.

The President announced that a quorum was present. Members attending were Mary Bessent, Mike Lomas and Dessie Kendall. Also attending were Cy Jenkins, Administrator and Christi Phillips, Office Manager. Visitors present were Ervin Mitchell and Bentley Hawley.

A presentation on pharmacy services was given by Ervin Mitchell and Bentley Hawley from Evans Pharmacy. After a discussion of in-house IV therapy, a motion was made and seconded that all nurses working at the Robert Lee Care Center will receive training and their certification in IV therapy. The motion carried. Residents needing IV antibiotic therapy or hydration will be able to stay in their own rooms in surroundings that are familiar.

Dessie Kendall's absence was excused from the November 27th meeting.

The minutes from the November 27th meeting were approved as presented.

A discussion concerning the addition of a shower/bath room in the Alzheimers unit was discussed. This item will be put on the facility list of needed improvements and will be done as time and money permits.

The facility's policy on use of the company vehicle was reviewed and discussed.

Tommy E. Neal
Investment Representative

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A review of the bookkeeping software was given by Christi Phillips. A discussion followed with no action taken at this time.

The Hospital District audit has been finalized. A written preliminary report was presented. There were no findings reported by the auditors. The letter from the auditors stated that the final report would be forthcoming in a couple of weeks.

The Medicaid Cost Report has been done in-house for the past several years. A discussion concerning the merits of having an outside firm prepare the report was held. Mike Lomas moved that the company that is currently doing the Medicare Cost Report be engaged to do the Medicaid Cost Report also. The motion was seconded and all voted in favor of the motion.

A report on the revision of the employee handbook was given by Cy Jenkins. No action was required on the report.

The financial reports were reviewed a motion was made that that the reports be accepted. The motion passed with no opposition.

The Administrator, Cy Jenkins, reported on the current census. Cy also reported that the employee Christmas party was a big success. The

Department Heads bought, prepared and served a dinner to all employees, Board members and a guest of their choosing.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2007, 9:30 a.m. in the conference room at the Robert Lee Care Center. The meetings are always open to the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

ASU 2006 Fall graduates

Angelo State University conferred degrees upon 334 students during 2006 Fall commencement exercises December 16 in San Angelo.

The 2006 Fall graduates include the following from the Bronte area: Matthew W. Menchaca, B.S. and Jennifer L. Serrato, B.A..

Caliche Loop Bird & Wildlife refuge update

by Noel Gregston

The National Audubon society had their annual Christmas bird count in Robert Lee on Saturday, December 16.

Sixteen counters gathered in the wee hours of the morning and counted birds all day long. A total of 3117 birds were counted that covered 103 species. Even though we're in very dry conditions, this is the most birds ever counted and the greatest number of species for the Robert Lee area.

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. David Bailey, Pastor
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
- St. James Catholic Church**
215 N. Washington, Bronte
(325) 365-2687
Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor
Sun. 5 pm

- 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
- 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
Jason Martin, Pastor
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
11 am & 6 pm, Worship
Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting
- 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. Irving Smith, Pastor
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship
Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting

Davis' celebrate 50th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Garland Davis of Robert Lee celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 26, 2006. Garland and Rose Marie Sawyer were married in the First United Methodist Church in Robert Lee in 1956. They remained in Robert Lee until 1972 when they moved to Medina. Since, they have lived in Austin; Ozona; Dripping Springs; Lovington, NM; and now reside in Robert Lee.

Mr. Davis was a public school educator for 40 years serving as a teacher, coach, principal and superintendent before serving as an associate to the Texas Commissioner of Education and as the Executive Director of the Texas Association of Community Schools. He also served as the Mayor of Robert Lee and on the board of directors for the Region XVII Education Service Center in San Angelo.

Mrs. Davis has served the last 50 years as a faithful servant to her family. She has worked diligently as chef, chauffeur, head of housekeeping, plant operations manager and transportation supervisor of the family home. In addition, she has been the Chief Executive Officer, support-team manager and entertainment coordinator. Wearing many hats, she has been the glue that has held the family intact for the last half century.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis are the parents of: Glenn and Colleen Davis of Spicewood, Texas; Gary and Carmela Davis of Denver City, Texas; and Copie and Alicia Davis of Round Rock, Texas. They also have six grandchildren: Courtney Davis of Kerrville; Curtis and Cami Davis of Spicewood; Marlow and Sawyer Davis of Denver City; and Olivia Davis of Round Rock. They are expecting the birth of their seventh grandchild in July.

For their anniversary, the couple spent the Christmas holidays with their family at the Renaissance Arboretum hotel in Austin. They enjoyed Christmas day with their children and grandchildren in the home of Glenn and Colleen Davis in Spicewood. On their anniversary, the couple along with the entire family, was taken by limousine to Dan McKluskey's Steakhouse on Sixth Street in downtown Austin, where they celebrated the last 50 years.

RLISD board meets in regular session

The RLISD board met in regular session on Tuesday, December 19, 2006 at 7:00 pm in the school library. The meeting was called to order by President Roe.

Member present: K. Roe, W. Washam, J. Roberts, I. Torres, T. Reed, T. Sawyer, B. Duncan.



Mr. & Mrs. Garland Davis

7:00 pm meeting called to order by President Roe, quorum of members present.

Invocation and pledge led by Kevin Roe.

Jeffie Roberts made a motion to approve the November 16, 2006 minutes as read, seconded by Wes Washam. All for.

Irma Torres made a motion to approve the agenda seconded by Buck Duncan. All for.

Wes Washam made a motion to approve the financial report and to pay the bills, seconded by Irma Torres. All for.

Asst. Principal, Wayne Simpson, gave the elementary report along with campus activities; 131 students enrolled in elementary with 98% ADA for November. Principal, Dwin Nanny, gave the JH/HS report along with campus activities; 118 students enrolled with 97% ADA for December.

Jeffie Roberts made a motion to approve the 2007-2010 Technology Plan presented by Sandy Sawyer, seconded by Wes Washam. All for.

Buck Duncan made a motion to reject all proposals received for a security system seconded by Tom Sawyer. Supt. Hood will post for bids. All for.

Tod Reed made a motion to accept Supt. Hood's recommendation to provide counseling services for RLISD students with Dorothea Wright. Motion seconded by Jeffie Roberts. All for.

Supt. Hood gave his superintendent's report on enrollment numbers, wind project update, cell phones, damage to school property.

The board entered into closed session at 8:23 pm and reconvened into open session at 9:08 pm.

The next regular board meeting will be Tuesday, January 16, 2007, at 5:00 pm.



Look Who's New!

Ava Brooke Marie Scott

Liana Baye Marie would like to announce the arrival of her beautiful new baby sister, Ava Brooke Marie Scott.

She was born on December 21, 2006, at 11:52 pm, weighing 7 lbs., 3.9 oz and was 18, 3/4 inches long.

She was welcomed by her parents, Zane and Giovanna Scott of San Angelo; grandparents, John and Sherry Barnett of Bronte, Merritt Scott of Bronte and Elaine Oates of San Angelo; great-grandparents, Dale and Joy Keele of Bronte, and numerous aunts and uncles.

Nominations open for most endangered historic places

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is accepting nominations for its 2007 America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list. The list is issued annually to raise awareness of historic sites susceptible to neglect, deterioration, poor maintenance, insufficient funding, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy.

For more information on the primary criteria used to determine the 11 finalists call 202/588-6141 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.

Completed nominations must be postmarked by Friday, Jan. 12, 2007. For more information on the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program contact the THC's Architecture Division at 512/463-6094 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us.

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Big Red, A&W or



Pepsi or Dr. Pepper
2 12 Pk. Cans /\$6

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Coors

18 Pack Cans

Beer

\$12.29



Reg., Light or Select

Budweiser

20 Pack Bottles

Beer

\$13.69



ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS

Robert Lee High School Basketball Schedule

November 17	Roscoe	There	4:00	JV & V Boys & Girls
November 21	Forsan	Here	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
November 28	Winters	There	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
Nov. 30, Dec. 2	Robert Lee Tour.	Here	TBA	JV Girls & Boys
Nov. 30 - Dec. 2	Irion Co. Tour.	Ther	TBA	V Girls & Boys
December 5	Miles	Here	4:00	JV & V Girls & V Boys
December 7-9	Miles Tournament	There	TBA	V Girls & Boys
December 7 & 9	Sterling City Tour.	There	TBA	JV Girls & Boys
December 12	Paint Rock	There	5:00	JV Girls & Boys
December 15	Westbrook	There	4:00	JV Boys, V Girls & Boys
December 18	Roby	Here	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
December 27 - 28	Trent Tournament	There	TBA	V Girls & Boys
January 2	TLC	Here	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
* January 5	Water Valley	There	6:30**	JV & V Girls
January 6	Bronte Tournament	There	TBA	JV Girls & Boys
* January 9	Sterling City	Here	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
* January 12	Garden City	There	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
* January 16	Blackwell	Here	6:30	V Girls & Boys
* January 18	Bronte	There	5:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
* January 23	Water Valley	Here	4:00**	JV & V Girls & Boys
* January 26	Sterling City	There	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
* January 30	Garden City	Here	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
* February 2	Blackwell	There	6:30	V Girls & Boys
* February 6	Bronte	Here	5:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
* February 9	Water Valley	There	6:30**	JV & V Boys

* Denote district Games

**Game times could change due to schools not fielding JV teams or only 2 games being played

Gallegos, Hodge, named to ST All-West Texas Football Team

Sophomore Josh Gallegos and Junior Cameron Hodge, were recently named to the

School Menu

Breakfast

Monday, January 8

Juice, pigs in blanket, cereal, milk

Tuesday, January 9

Juice, cinnamon roll, cereal, milk

Wednesday, January 10

Juice, pancake & sausage on stick, cereal, milk

Thursday, January 11

Juice, sausage & biscuit, cereal, milk

Friday, January 12

Juice, muffin, cereal, milk

Lunch

Monday, January 8

Corn dog, tator tots, pork & beans, applesauce, teddy grahams, milk

Tuesday, January 9

Frito pie, corn, salad, apricots, milk

Wednesday, January 10

Chicken A La King, rice, egg roll, pears, chocolate pudding, milk

Thursday, January 11

Salisbury steak, baked potato, green peas, sliced bread, peaches, milk

Friday, January 12

BBQ on bun, pickles, baked chips, ranch beans, pineapple, milk

2006 San Angelo Standard Times All-West Texas Football Team.

Cameron Hodge was a first-team all district selection at three different positions-utility back, cornerback and as a specials teams player. He ran for six touchdowns this year, caught six TD passes, returned five kickoffs for touchdowns, threw for a touchdown and returned one interception and two fumbles for scores.

Josh Gallegos surprised a lot of folks to a breakout 2006 campaign and Offensive MVP honors in District 3. He averaged more than 10 yards per carry and 20 yards per pass completion. He combined for 2,300 yards of total offense and 36 touchdowns between running, throwing and catching. He was also a first team all-district linebacker.

West Texas Six-Man All-District teams named

District 1 Division 3

Offensive MVP: Josh Gallegos, Sophomore, Robert Lee

1st Team Offense

Receiver: Kevin Honse,

Senior, Robert Lee Spread back: Josh Gallegos, Sophomore, Robert Lee

Utility back: Cameron Hodge, Junior, Robert Lee

2nd Team Offense

Receivers: Taylor Percifull, Junior, Robert Lee

Kicker: Taylor Percifull, Junior, Robert Lee

1st Team Defense

Linemen: Brody Dillard, Junior, Robert Lee

Linebackers: Josh Gallegos, Sophomore, Robert Lee

Cornerbacks: Cameron Hodge, Junior, Robert Lee

Safeties: Kevin Honse, Senior, Robert Lee

2nd Team Defense

Linemen: Chase Roe, Junior, Robert Lee

Cornerbacks: Taylor Percifull, Junior, Robert Lee

Utility Player: Corbin Martin, Junior, Robert Lee

Six Man All-State Team named

Second Team Offense: Special Teams-Cameron Hodge, Junior, Robert Lee

Steers varsity basketball results

On Dec. 7, in the Miles Tournament, the varsity team lost their game by a very slim

margin to Lake View JV by a score of 48-47. Scoring: Cameron Hodge 10, Josh Gallegos 8, Jeremy Martinez 8, Johnathan Pagan 8, Taylor Percifull 7, Chase Roe 4, and Brody Dillard 2.

On Dec. 8, Robert Lee defeated Cornerstone 52-42. Scoring: Josh Gallegos 17, Jeremy Martinez 17, Cameron Hodge 8, Brody Dillard 5, Taylor Percifull 3, and Chase Roe 2.

Also on the 8th, Robert Lee was defeated by Central JV by a score of 60-42. Scoring: Brody Dillard 15, Josh Gallegos 8, Jeremy Martinez 4, Johnathan Pagan 4, Chase Roe 4, Cameron Hodge, 5, and Taylor Percifull 2.

RL Dogies

basketball results

On Dec. 8, Bronte defeated the Dogies by a score of 40-25. Scoring: Logan Philley 14, Haden Dillard 7, Luke Sheldon 2, and Chris Mims 2.

Lady Steers

basketball results

On December 27 in the Trent Classic Tournament, the Lady Steers were defeated by Wylie JV by a score of 45-23. Scoring: Kasie Skinner 3; Arrin Minjarez 6; Brettne Reed 3; Sarah Philley 2; and Becca Skinner 9.

In the tournament on December 28, the Lady Steers defeated Rotan by a score of 49-37. Scoring: Jaden Alexander 6; Kasie Skinner 6; Arrin Minjarez 6; Kelsy Duncan 6; Megan Percifull 2; Brettne Reed 9; Sarah Philley 5; and Becca Skinner 9.

Keep Reading With Kids After They Start School

Just because your child already has started school doesn't mean you shouldn't continue to read to him or her at home.

While most of us are familiar with the benefits of reading to small children and toddlers, many are not as aware that continuing to read with young, school-age children will help them perform better in school.

Indeed, the National Education Association has issued some helpful tips for reading at home to and with young children who currently attend kindergarten through third grade.

* Keep reading to your

children even after they can read alone. Read books together that are too difficult or long for them to read alone.

* Begin to help them sample books with chapters and talk about what is happening in these stories. Encourage your children to make predictions about what will happen next, and connect characters or events to those in other books and stories.

* Talk with your kids about reading preferences that are beginning to develop. Does your child prefer adventure stories, mysteries, science fiction, animal stories, or stories about other children? Offer encouragement and ask them to explain their reasons for preferences.

* Engage your children about favorite authors and help find additional books by those authors.

* Take turns reading a story with your child. Don't interrupt to correct mistakes that do not change the meaning.

* Talk about the meaning of new words and ideas introduced in books. Help your child think of examples of new concepts.

* Talk with your child about stories using the notions of the beginning, middle, and end of the story to organize thinking and discussion.

* Ask why a character might have taken a specific action. Ask for information from the story to support these answers.

* Enjoy yourself and have fun. The most important thing you can do to help your child become a successful reader is communicate that reading is valuable and enjoyable.

The research is clear: children who are read to, and who read for pleasure, are significantly more successful in school than children who do not.

For tips on encouraging reading habits among both young and older children, visit www.nea.org/parents, where you can also find information about math, science and other subjects, as well.

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BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS

Bronte High School Basketball Schedule

November 17	Hawley	There	4:00	JV & V Boys & Girls
November 21	Miles	There	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
November 28	Veribest	Here	5:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
Nov. 30 - Dec. 2	Bronte Tour.	Here	TBA	V Girls & Boys
December 5	Menard	Here	5:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
December 7-9	Highland Tour.	There	TBA	V Girls & V Boys
December 7, 9	Sterling City Tour.	There	TBA	JV Girls & Boys
December 12	Miles	Here	5:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
December 14, 16	Eldorado Tour.	There	TBA	JV Girls & Boys
December 15	Veribest	There	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
December 18	Menard	There	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
December 28-30	Eula Tournament	There	TBA	V Girls & Boys
January 2	Loraine	Here	5:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
January 5	Garden City	There	5:00	JV & V Girls
January 6	Bronte Tournament	Here	TBA	JV Girls & Boys
January 9	Water Valley	There	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
January 12	Blackwell	Here	5:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
January 16	Sterling City	There	5:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
January 18	Robert Lee	Here	5:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
January 23	Garden City	Here	5:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
January 26	Water Valley	Here	5:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
January 30	Blackwell	There	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
February 2	Sterling City	Here	5:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
February 6	Robert Lee	There	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
February 9	Garden City	There	5:00	JV & V Boys

Boys Coach: Rocky Rawls • Girls Coach: Justin Esquell
 Superintendent: Alan Richey • Principal: Terry Marrs
 Athletic Director: Keith McCutchen

Bronte Junior High Basketball Schedule

November 20	Water Valley	Here	5:00	A & B Girls & Boys
November 27	Menard	There	5:00	A & B Girls & Boys
December 4	Sterling City	There	5:00	A & B Girls & Boys
December 11	Robert Lee	Here	5:00	A & B Girls & Boys
December 14, 16	"A" Team Tourney	Here	TBA	A Boys
December 14, 16	"A" Team Tourney	Christoval		A Girls
January 4	Garden City	There	5:00	A & B Girls & Boys
January 8	Water Valley	Here	5:00	A & B Girls & Boys
January 13	"B" Team Tourney	Robert Lee		B Girls & Boys
January 15	Menard	Here	5:00	A & B Girls & Boys
January 18, 20	"A" Team Tourney	Irion County		A Boys
January 18, 20	"A" Team Tourney	Water Valley		A Girls
January 22	Sterling City	Here	5:00	A & B Boys & Girls
January 25, 27	"B" Team Tourney	San Angelo		B Girls
January 29	Robert Lee	There	5:00	A&B Girls & Boys
February 5	Veribest	Here	5:00	A&B Girls & Boys

Boys Coach: Brandon Moore • Girls Coach: Carol Moore

Winter weather safety tips

Safety at home and work

- *A 3-day supply of water (one gallon per person, per day)
- *Food that won't spoil: peanut butter, high-energy bars, non-perishable foods
- *One change of clothing and shoes per person
- *Portable radio
- *Flashlight with extra batteries
- *Extra set of car keys
- *Cash and a credit card
- *Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- *One blanket or sleeping bag per person
- *First-aid kit
- *Prescription medicines
- *Emergency tools
- *Battery-powered NWR

Vehicle safety tips

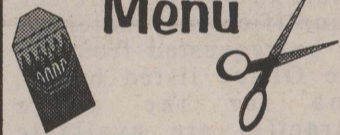
- *Plan your travel and check the latest weather reports to avoid the storm!
- *Fully check and winterize your vehicle before you leave.
- *Keep your gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- *Avoid traveling alone. Always drive to the conditions of the highway.
- *Let someone know your timetable and primary and alternative routes.
- *If you become stranded, never leave the safety of your vehicle.
- *Run the motor about 10 minutes each hour for heat.
- *Open the window a little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- *Be sure to keep your exhaust clear of snow as you're keeping warm in the car.
- *Turn on the dome light at night when running the engine.
- *Tie a colored cloth, preferably red, to your antenna or door.
- *After snow stops falling, raise the hood to indicate you need help.

- *Carry a winter storm survival kit
- *Mobile phone, charger,

batteries

- *Blankets/sleeping bags
 - *Flashlight with extra batteries
 - *First-aid kit
 - *Knife
 - *High-calorie, non-perishable food
 - *Extra clothing to keep dry
 - *Large empty can to use as emergency toilet. Tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes
 - *Small can and waterproof matches to melt snow for drinking water
 - *Sack of sand or cat litter for traction
 - *Shovel
 - *Windshield scraper and brush
 - *Tool kit
 - *Tow rope
 - *Battery booster cables
 - *Water Container
 - *Compass and road maps
- #### Farm safety and pets
- *Move animals to sheltered areas.
 - *Shelter belts, properly laid out and oriented, are better protection for cattle than confining shelters, such as sheds.
 - *Haul extra feed to nearby feeding areas.
 - *Have water available. Most animals die from dehydration in winter storms.
 - *Make sure pets have plenty of food, water and shelter.

School Menu



Breakfast

Monday, January 8

Cereal, sliced peaches, toast, jelly, milk

Tuesday, January 9

Sausage roll, assorted juice, milk

Wednesday, January 10

Scrambled eggs, assorted juice, toast, jello, milk

Thursday, January 11

Pancake and sausage on a stick, assorted juice, syrup, milk

Friday, January 12

Peanut butter and jelly sandwich, assorted juice, milk

Lunch

Monday, January 8

Hot dog, chili & cheese, tator tots, macaroni & cheese, assorted fruit, bun, brownies, milk

Tuesday, January 9

Enchiladas, refried beans, tossed salad, cinnamon apples, milk

Wednesday, January 10

Oven crispy chicken, gravy, creamed potatoes, English peas, pineapple tidbits, roll, milk

Thursday, January 11

Taco salad with cheese, lettuce & tomato, corn, taco shell, peach cobbler, milk

Friday, January 12

Cheeseburger, lettuce, tomato, pickles, baked beans, baby carrots/ranch, bun, chips, rice krispie bar, milk

Rawls named as ST All-West Texas punter

Logan Rawls, a senior at Bronte was forced to cut his season-short after sustaining a third concussion, but before he did, he punted for an average of 43.6 yards to repeat his selection as the Standard Times Class 1A All-West Texas punter.

Bronte Shorthorn basketball results

by Coach Moore

On Dec. 11, in Sterling City, the boys Shorthorn "A" basketball team defeated Sterling City by a score of 45-20. Scoring: Kerwin Rawls 3; Dakota Rawls 23; Chase Harris 2; Creed Coalson 5; Terran Charles 3; and Heath Richey 9.

The junior high boys "A" team kept their streak alive with a win over Robert Lee on Monday night. We had a tough time scoring during the 1st quarter, but the guys did a good job of adjusting and we went into halftime with a 21-9 lead. We did a much better job this week of rebounding both offensively and defensively. We will be hosting a JH boys "A" Tournament on Thursday and Saturday of this week (12-14 and 12-16).

Also, a good job to the 7th graders on Monday with their head-to-head match-up. Robert Lee did not have a 7th grade boys team so our team split and they scrimmaged in place of the game. It was a great chance for these guys to get some additional court time. Good job to all of them!

Bronte JV boys basketball results

On Tuesday, January 2nd, the Bronte JV boys defeated Loraine by a large margin of 61-7. Bronte scoring: Hayden White 7; Kolton Pena 2; Sam Rawlings 7; Reece Springer 16; Ernesto Casillas 8; Audie Miller 6; Ty Mackey 6; Jacob Scott 3; Rob Rosson 4; and Jose Perez 2.



A few Santa letters made it into Santa's bag but not into our Christmas newspaper. We are printing them here for your enjoyment. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Dear Santa,
 How is Rudolf? Hi Santa I am in First Grade. Please bring remote control robot. I will leave cookies and milk under my tree.

Love,
 Mason Keeney

Dear Santa,
 How do you bring the letters? We have put up our christmas tree. Please bring me moon shoes, motor scooter and four wheeler. Be careful on the way to my hose.

Love,
 Sierra O'Brien

Dear Santa,
 How is the weather? I have gotten my tonsils out. Please bring me a remote control motorcycle, two soccer balls and one football. I will leave hay for the reindeer.

Love,
 Aaron Cervenka

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE
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 (915) 453-2433


drop box is located at

HOMETOWN HARDWARE

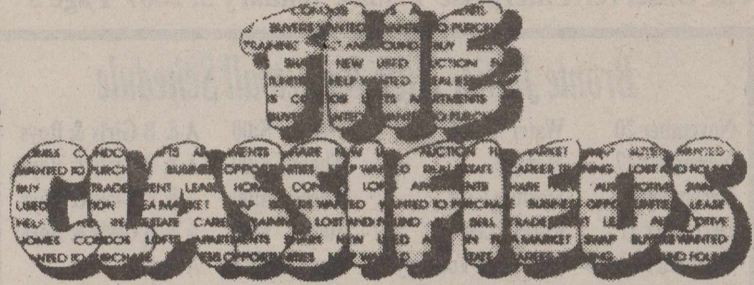
in Bronte.

GLENN-BIVINS INSURANCE

Please support the Bronte Volunteer Fire Department!


 123 W. Main


Bronte
 473-6791



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 Rates when paid in advance.
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 Subsequent Insertions
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 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.


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 New and Used. Repairs, upgrades, internet service. Ed Martindale, 473-3004.
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 Large shop with office & restroom on over 350' of Hwy 277 frontage in Bronte. Call 325/672-0204. \$500/month.
 27-tnc

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 or buy this 3/1/0. New gas heat! Deposit. \$375/mo. 906 Childress, RLISD. 655-9141.
 22-tnc
TAKING APPLICATIONS
 for one, two & three bedroom apartments. Washers, dryers, RO water systems in each unit. Contact Housing Authority of Robert Lee, 710 N. Bishop, 453-2912. Equal Housing Opportunity.
 16-cow
 20-tnc
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 at 402 E. 5th, Robert Lee.
FOR RENT OR SALE
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MISCELLANEOUS
HALF-PRICE SALE
 All Christmas decorations from Cedar Canyon Collectibles at Amazing Hair Salon, 401 W. 10th, Robert Lee.
 23-2tc
THE "BARBER" SHOP
 Debora England, 107 W. Main, Bronte. 650-1970. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. 9 am - 5 pm.
 33-tnc
TREES TOPPED
 trimmed, or removed. Call 473-8712 or 453-9902 after 5:00.
 07-tnc
CEMETERY MAINTENANCE
 Plot maintenance or repairs. Call 473-8712 or 453-9902 after 5:00.
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WARNING!!
 The air in your home or office could be making you sick! Doesn't it make sense to breathe the cleanest air possible? Ask about free in-home trial. For more information, call (325) 453-2768 or 1-888-553-2768.
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 21-4tp

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SMALL MOBILE HOME

Bob Frazee's 944-0010 473-6603
Texas Best
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 Flat Repair • Vehicle Service • Equipment Rental
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 Residential & Commercial. All types plumbing repair - new construction, remodeling, fixtures, and sewer service. Licensed Master Plumber. 473-2131, Bronte.
 34-tnc

STUMP GRINDING
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 20-tnc

LHASA APSO FOUND
 at Town & Country in Bronte. Blonde, neutered male. Call 450-5567 or 450-2412.
 24-1tc

HELP WANTED
ROBERT LEE ISD
 is accepting applications for a half-time Elementary Music Teacher. This position will be a morning only, 10 month position with salary being half of state base. For more information, contact Aaron Hood, Superintendent, 325/453-4555. Send resumes to Robert Lee ISD, 1323 Hamilton, Robert Lee, TX 76945.
 23-2tc

PUBLIC NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given that Coke County Commissioners Court is taking applications for a Senior Center Director in Bronte. It is a 20 hour per week job. Applications are available in the Coke County Judge's Office and must be returned by 9:00 am on Monday, Jan. 8, 2007. For additional information, please call the Coke County Judge at 453-2641. Coke County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
 23-2tc

To Advertise, Call 453-2433!

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 • Large home with deck & creek on 27+ acres!
 • Huge Shop & Barn on 2+ acres!
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 • 1+ Acre almost in the country complete with large newer home!
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 • 2 Houses for one price! Live in one - rent the other on this investor special!
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 • Recently updated 2974 sq. ft. solid stone & frame home near college w/large yard!
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 Lake Front Property, 3 BR, 2 Bath home, 1550 sq. ft., vaulted ceiling in living area, 2 car carport, on apprx. 4.5 ac. with magnificent views, additional guest house.

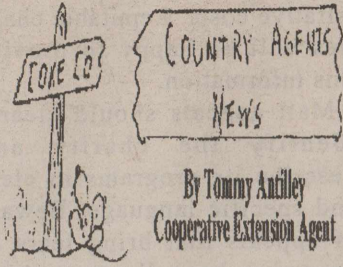
CARD OF THANKS
TRES AMIGOS CONVENIENCE STORES
 Water Valley location
 Cashiers/Food Service Workers
 Apply in person
 24-2tc

ONCE AGAIN WE ARE
 reminded of the wonderful people around us, who come to your aid in times of need. We wish to thank each and everyone for the prayers, flowers and deeds. A special thanks to the Baptist Church for opening their doors to us for the service, Ray Aldridge for the wonderful service, and the ladies who prepared the meal. Also the nurses of Ballinger Home Health, who not only took care of Bob, but became friends with him. The Robert Lee Care Center and Vista Care of San Angelo who helped so much at the last.
 May God bless each and everyone of you.
 The family and friends of
 Bob Cox
 24-1tp

NOTICES
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS
 Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
 Dist/Div: El Paso
 Contract 6157-27-001 for REST AREA TOTAL MAINTENANCE, OPERATION AND REPAIR in EL PASO County, etc will be opened on February 09, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$4,608,000.00.
 All prospective bidders are encouraged to attend the pre-bid conference for Contract 6157-27-001 to be held on January 30, 2007 at 2:00 pm at the 150 EAST RIVERSIDE DR, 1ST FLOOR, VTR BOARD MEETING ROOM.
 Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
 NPO: 22317
 State Office
 Constr./Maint. Division
 200 E. Riverside Dr.
 Austin, Texas 78704
 Phone: 512-416-2540
 Dist/Div Office(s)
 El Paso District
 District Engineer
 13301 Gateway Blvd. West
 El Paso, Texas 79928-5410
 Phone: 915-790-4200
 Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
 24-2tc

Editorial & Advertising Deadline is 2 pm on Tuesday preceding publication.
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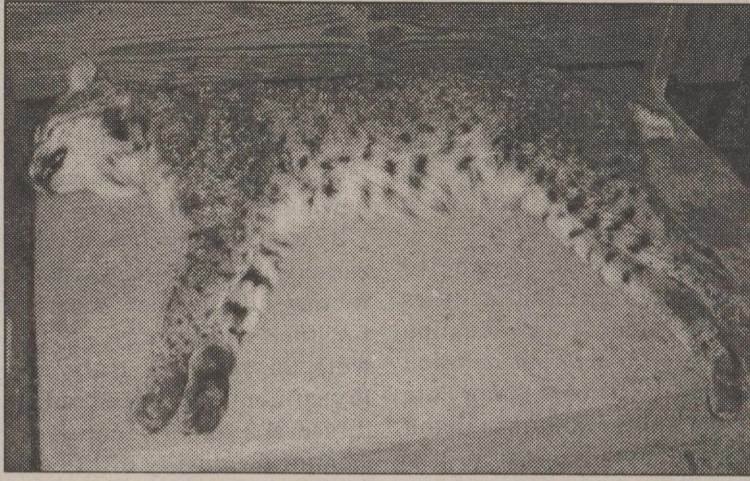
Integrated Pest Management

In technical terms, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the coordinated use of pest and environmental information with available pest control methods to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

Put simply, integrated pest management (IPM) is a safe, efficient, common sense, environmentally friendly and cost effective approach to pest management. An IPM program uses strategies to reduce sources of food, water and shelter for pests in buildings and grounds. A properly designed program takes advantage of all pest management techniques, including the judicious and careful use of pesticides when deemed necessary.

Science and chemical technology have provided powerful tools for controlling pests. These pesticides must be used and in accordance with the product label, especially when applied in sensitive areas where children are present. The Texas State Legislature adopted legislation requiring all school districts to have an Integrated Pest Management program by September 1, 1995. At its basest form, Integrated Pest management (IPM) is simply a strategy that relies on a combination of the best available control tactics, with an emphasis placed on the least hazardous methods that effectively and economically reduces pests to an acceptable level. IPM relies heavily on knowledge about the pest; changes in population and acceptable levels of control to devise a targeted control strategy. IPM is more than a key "buzz word" or phrase; it is a common sense and educated approach to efficient and practical pest control.

The first step to initiate an IPM is to identify the problem, dangers the pest presents and population levels and acceptable levels of pest population. These observations are crucial to control and may be completed by several techniques. Proper observation, attention to detail and conversations with others that may have observed pest activity will assist your evaluation and program for control. Visual observations of the pest, habitat areas, droppings, pathways, their markings and pathways will help in determination



Bobcat! Bill Hefner (right photo), of Odessa, shot this approximately 35 pound bobcat with a .22, on the Double J Ranch, owned by his mother-in-law, Glenda Mathers of Robert Lee. The cat was taken on December 22, 2006 at 7:15 am. The bobcat is getting a full body mount done by Mark Wright at Wildcat Taxidermy in Robert Lee.

of the target area and severity of the problem.

Other mechanical means of pest control are extremely effective when directed toward restricting entry or reducing habitat pest areas. This may be accomplished as simply as sealing all cracks in door-jamb; window casings and insuring all weather seals are proper and fit tightly. Secure and seal building entry water lines, sewer lines, electrical entry and exit points, fire places, roof mounted ventilation systems and air conditioning and heating units. These tasks may be performed by properly caulking and using a quality metal restricting "stuffing" made specifically for this duty like Stuf-fit Copper Netting. One needs to pay particular attention to clutter, i.e. debris around your yard, play areas and buildings that could harbor or provide an environment for pests. Many times proper pest control requires a change in cultural practices, i.e. insuring areas are clear of clutter, grass and weeds are properly and routinely maintained and landscaping mulches and grass areas are at least a foot from the structure.

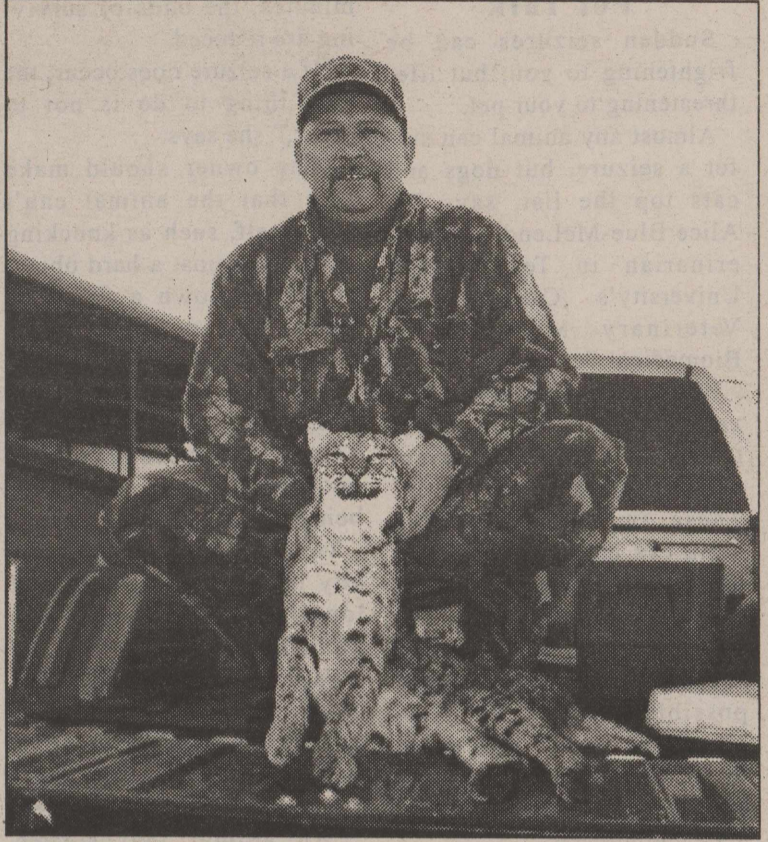
Inspect items brought into the home for possible "hitch-hiking" pests. Do not leave pet food out and unattended as that attracts

pests. Limit excess water and repair leaking faucets. Remove animal waste, secure trash bags and garbage cans, and keep them away from the house. Practice good sensible sanitation by cleaning up and disposing of food scraps after meals. Vacuum and remove any known spider webs.

Rodents are a concern not only because of the damage they inflict in homes by gnawing, scratching, staining with "grease marks," fecal matter but they also cause many electrical fires by stripping wiring that may cause shorts in electrical wiring. In addition, they are an efficient vector for fleas, ticks and many health related diseases. Rodents and roaches also create allergy and asthma problems for those susceptible.

Flying insects like mosquitoes, bees and wasps cause not only pain but also create health issues for many each year. These bites and stings have the ability for some to trigger serious incidents and life threatening situations like anaphylactic shock.

Most spiders are beneficial and do not cause a problem other than unsightly webs; however, some spiders and scorpion bites inflict severe pain and can cause severe tissue and nerve damage. Generally, spiders are in



an area because they have found a food source of other insects making them an excellent indicator that a general pest control is needed. The "Black Widow" and the "Brown Recluse" spiders are a serious threat to anyone when they are present. These spiders bite out of survival, fear and as a defense when they feel threatened.

When pests are indicated in an area to be more than acceptable, then the proper pest control technique may then be selected. These techniques may be as simple as removing clutter.

For information on various pest control measures, contact the Coke County Cooperative Extension Service at 453-2461.

Brochure launches Texas Heritage Trails program

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) award-winning Texas Heritage Trails Program (THTP) is pleased to announce the upcoming launch of its most recent brochure for the Texas Mountain Trail Region, which highlights historic and cultural sites in Far West Texas. The launch will take place on Feb. 23-24 and will include events

in El Paso, Alpine and Van Horn.

The Mountain Trail Region travel guide is a welcome addition to the six completed brochures highlighting other regions in the state. Based around 10 scenic driving trails, the THTP regions incorporate the perfect partnership between historic preservation and tourism. The 10 heritage regions included in the program are: Texas Brazos Trail Region, Forest Trail Region, Forts Trail Region, Hill Country Trail Region, Independence Trail Region, Lakes Trail Region, Mountain Trail Region, Pecos Trail Region, Plains Trail Region and Tropical Trail Region.

The THTP has sparked a resurgence in Texas travel and has helped boost economic development throughout the state. Because of this success, the THC was one of 45 recent recipients of grant funding through Preserve America. This money will fund a heritage tourism guidebook and a series of workshops aimed at training community representatives on heritage tourism development.

For additional information contact the THC's Community Heritage Development Division at 512/463-6092 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us. To request a brochure call 866/276-6219.

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Ask For: **453-4561**
Randy Flanagan • Marsha Wink
Billy Wayne Roe

Pet Talk

Sudden seizures can be frightening to you, but life-threatening to your pet.

Almost any animal can suffer a seizure, but dogs and cats top the list, says Dr. Alice Blue-McLendon, a veterinarian in Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Blue-McLendon says a seizure is defined as an uncontrolled event of electrical activity within the brain. These impulses from the brain can cause uncontrolled movement to other parts of the body, and the result can be muscle contractions, severe shaking, convulsions, possibly progressing to a coma-like state. The cause of these electrical events is still a mystery in both animals and humans.

"The good news is that most seizures in animals last only a short while, usually only a minute or two," she says. "Anything over five minutes is considered a life-threatening situation and the animal needs medical attention immediately."

Seizures are classified into two broad categories - generalized and partial.

A generalized seizure occurs when the animal's limbs become stiff with paddling movements. The animal may fall on its back or side, have excessive salivation and can have a bowel movement.

A partial seizure often involves movement of one portion of the body, such as facial or limb twitching. The animal may act like it is trying to catch a fly. Evidence of a partial seizure may be the beginning of a generalized seizure.

If an animal has more than one seizure, the event is termed epilepsy. Epilepsy can occur from an unknown cause (asymptomatic) for which there may be a hereditary basis, or from a known cause (symptomatic).

Asymptomatic epilepsy is most common in dogs and cats between 1 and 5 years of age and may have a hereditary basis, Blue-McLendon adds.

Certain breeds such as German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, Dachshunds, Collies and Beagles are prone to having hereditary epilepsy. "If epilepsy is inherited, it can be passed on to the next generation, and there is a lot of research being done on this very topic," she notes.

Examples of symptomatic causes for epilepsy include toxicity (sometimes from flea products), infectious diseases, nutritional deficiencies and brain tumors. "If a dog or cat is 5 years or older and suffers from seizures, there may be a greater likelihood of a brain tumor," Blue-McLendon explains.

Research has shown that if a seizure lasts longer than 30

minutes, the odds of surviving are reduced.

"If a seizure does occur, the first thing to do is not to panic," she says.

"The owner should make sure that the animal can't hurt itself, such as knocking its head against a hard object or falling down a flight of stairs. And you should never put your hand down the animal's throat even if it appears to have trouble swallowing. That will do more harm than good with potential risks of being bitten."

Treatment for seizures usually involves short-term and long-term therapies, Blue-McLendon explains.

Valium is the most commonly used drug to stop a seizure, and there are other drugs used such as phenobarbital and potassium bromide.

"An animal that suffers from seizures can still live a relatively normal life," she adds. "The goal of treatment is to decrease the duration, severity and frequency of seizures. Early intervention with medication will most likely provide better success in the long-term seizure management of a pet."

To the Moon, Mars, and Beyond

by Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

Since Alan Shepard became the first American to travel into space in 1968, our nation has sent men to walk on the Moon, robots to chart the surface of Mars, and spacecraft to explore the far reaches of the universe. Driven by a spirit of exploration and discovery, the developments of the past few weeks remind us of the breadth and scope of our space program.

Today we are on the verge of an exciting new phase of exploration. The recent return of Space Shuttle Discovery to Earth capped a period of accomplishment for NASA. In early December, NASA announced its intentions to establish a permanent settlement at the South Pole of the moon. A few days later, NASA scientists announced that a spacecraft orbiting Mars had discovered compelling evidence of water on Mars within the past seven years. And on December 9, Space Shuttle Discovery launched into the night sky on the latest mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

During NASA's 117th space shuttle flight, Discovery's seven-person crew rewired the ISS to establish a permanent electrical system. This new, more reliable power source will protect the groundbreaking scientific experiments being conducted in this unique national laboratory.

Planning is underway to send astronauts back to the moon for the first time since 1972, and the proposed lunar settlement will serve as a

ground station of sorts for future space travelers. NASA's goal to establish a permanent base on the moon is part of the long-range Vision for Exploration announced by President Bush in January 2004.

NASA intends to build habitat and research facilities on the moon. The location currently under consideration is near the moon's South Pole at the rim of the Shackleton Crater, aptly named for the legendary Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton. As we develop self-sustaining habitats on the moon, we will use it as a base for observing both the Earth and the heavens beyond, and as a staging base for eventual human exploration of Mars.

We have long been interested in Mars, and this lunar station may very well lead to more extensive understanding of the red planet. We hope to one day send human crews to the surface of Mars, and until that is possible, we will continue to study the planet through orbiting reconnaissance spacecraft and the Mars rovers, Spirit and Opportunity. Images provided by these hardy rovers allow for a far better understanding of the Martian environment.

New before-and-after images taken from orbit suggest the potential flow of liquid water on the Martian surface. This could be an enormous discovery that would increase the possibility of finding existing, primitive forms of single-cell life at or near the surface of Mars.

We are entering an exciting time for our space program. The enactment of the NASA Authorization Act of 2005, which I drafted, allows for the initial testing of the launch systems to replace the space shuttle as the principal means of sending humans and cargo into space. Over the next three years, we will see the completion of the ISS and its transition to a fully functional national laboratory. We will also see the development of a host of privately financed commercial ventures to explore and utilize the region of space closest to the earth, including some intended to help support the use of the ISS. By the middle of the next decade, we will witness the early landings of probes and sampling missions as we finalize our preparations to return humans to the moon's surface by 2020.

The drive to explore and discover has resulted in constant human progress. Our space exploration has yielded enormous, specific benefits to us on Earth. We have seen important, life-saving medical breakthroughs in diagnostic tools and treatments for disease. Through the unique weightless environment of the shuttle and the ISS, we are acquiring a new understanding of the structure of

cells and proteins that will be key to developing new drugs and cures for diseases. The development of new technologies and manufacturing techniques has created entire new industries on Earth.

By expanding human civilization into the solar system, we may discover new sources for fuel and energy. Our work in space is truly an investment in mankind's future and in the improvement of the quality of life on Earth. The achievements of the next half-century promise to be even more astounding than the revolutionary advances we have witnessed since NASA's creation in 1958.

Beware Of Phony Charities This Time Of Year

This is the time of year when more Americans begin to make charitable donations or resolve to give more to charity. Consumers are being advised nationwide to be careful when donating to charitable organizations, especially those groups about which they know little.

Attorneys General in many states are offering tips on how to select a worthy charity and how to go about making your contribution carefully.

Ask questions about the organization soliciting funds. A legitimate charity will be happy to provide information about its work.

Be wary of charities with names that sound impressive or resemble those of other organizations. Some scam artists use names similar to reputable, well-known charities to confuse donors.

Do not give cash. For security and tax record purposes, it is best to pay by check - made payable to the charity itself, not the solicitor.

Ask for a receipt showing the amount of the contribution and stating that it is tax-deductible. If you volunteer your time, remember that, although the value of your time as a volunteer is not deductible, out-of-pocket expenses (including transportation costs) directly related to your volunteer service to a charity are deductible.

Be very skeptical of anyone asking for an immediate donation by requesting your credit card number or bank account information over the phone.

Do not give out personal or financial information including Social Security, credit card and bank account numbers - to anyone who solicits a contribution from you. Scam artists can use this information to commit fraud against you.

Find out how the charity will use your donation. Ask for information about its programs and for a copy of its financial report. Ask what percentage of your donation will support the organization's programming and how much will be spent on admin-

istrative costs. Reputable charities will be happy to provide this information.

Mail appeals should clearly identify the charity and describe its programs in clear and specific language. Beware of appeals that bring tears to your eyes but tell you nothing of the charity or what it's doing about the problem it describes so well.

Be wary of calls soliciting funds that coincide with highly publicized tragedies, such as devastating fires, floods or other dramatic events. Fraudulent fund raisers will try to exploit your sympathy for those who suffered.

Ask for identification if you are approached in person. Many states require paid fundraisers to identify themselves as such and to name the charity for which they are soliciting.

If you have any doubts about a charity, check with your local state government - you can usually check with the Attorney General's office or the Secretary of State - to ensure it is registered as a non-profit.

You can also check out a charity by contacting the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance online at www.give.org or by phone at (703) 276-0100.

If you believe you have been a victim of fraud, be sure to contact your local Attorney General's office to file a complaint.

What Should I Know Before Starting A Job Search?

It can be pretty daunting to embark on a job search; especially if you haven't done so in quite a while.

There are six important items to know before starting, according to Lynda Ford, human resource expert and author of the book, "Transform Your Workplace."

* Make sure your resume stands out in the sea of resumes your potential employer views. Focus on accomplishments, not just day-to-day tasks. Make it easy to read and use bullets. "And get rid of the Career Objective section," she stresses, "It's a waste of white space."

* Do some research on the companies to which you're applying. Know important facts and figures, and use those in your cover letter and interview.

* Know the critical competencies and what the market is paying for the job. Be realistic for your experience and education level.

* Dress to impress. Even if company employees wear jeans every day, spiff up for any visit to the company. "Even the receptionist is a potential screener," says Ford.

* Send a thank you note to everyone who interviews you. It's a lost art and you'll stand out in the crowd.

* Lastly, treat your job search as if it's a full-time job. Put in eight hours a day, and don't spend it all on the Internet.

For more information and job searching tips, visit www.fordgroup.com.