

# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke &amp; Sterling Counties

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Friday, March 13, 2009

## Brisket lunch set for March 13

The Robert Lee Care Center Relay for Life team "We Care" will host a brisket lunch on Friday, March 13, at the Robert Lee Care Center, in the conference room.

The lunch includes: brisket, rice, beans, potato salad and dessert. Plates can be picked up at the Care Center or can be delivered to you.

Please call the Care Center to place your order at 453-2511 and ask for any of these team members: Mary Rodriquez, Martha Trejo, Tammy Riley, Blanca Mendoza, Patsy Cason, Josie Salazar, Liz Minjarez, Erika Galvan, Emma Minjarez, Janie Munoz, Christina Saucedo, Debra Horne or Dottie Mitchell.

## CNA classes to be held

Bronte Health and Rehab Center will be having a CNA class in March to staff their facility. You must be 18 years old, want to start a lifetime career in the healthcare field, love to work with elderly people, like to have fun and be dedicated to your work.

If this sounds like you, then come by BHRC and pick up an application. Class starts on March 23. Applications will be accepted until March 13.

## CCRTA meeting set

The Coke County Retired Teachers Association will meet Monday, March 16. The noon luncheon meeting will be held at the First Baptist Church in Bronte.

## First female fighter pilot coming to Bronte

The Bronte Sorosis Study Club has invited Ellen McKinnon, the first female fighter pilot, to come and speak to the club members, husbands, and anyone who would be interested in listening to her.

Ms. McKinnon will speak in Bronte on Thursday, March 19, at 7 pm at the Housing Authority Community Room. The Bronte Sorosis Club will have light snacks and punch following Ms. McKinnon's speech.

The Bronte Sorosis Club is very excited to have Ms. McKinnon come and speak

to everyone. Please mark your calendars to come and hear her.

## BHRC Auxiliary meeting slated

The Bronte Health and Rehab Center Auxiliary will meet at 1 pm on Thursday, March 19, in the living room at Bronte Health and Rehab Center. Spring will soon be here and that means an Easter egg hunt! Everyone is welcome to join this group to lend support to residents and their activities. Lunch will be served for a nominal fee. For more information call Janet Wommack at 473-5388 or Lanette Fletcher at 473-6791.

## Sorosis Club to host

### Spaghetti Dinner

The Bronte Sorosis Study Club will host a Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, March 22 immediately following church services (12 pm) at the First Baptist Church. All proceeds will go to Relay For Life. Everyone is invited to come and eat. Also, there will be to-go plates available for those who cannot stay and eat. Donations will be accepted for each plate.

## Hamburger Meal Deal set for March 29

The Cabbage Patch Kids of Bronte will have a "Hamburger Meal Deal" Sunday, March 29. The meal will include a hamburger, vegetables, chips, and cookie. The cost will be a minimum donation. All donations will be given to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. It will be held at Longbranch BBQ in Bronte at 11:30 am.

For more information contact one of the Cabbage Patch Kids: DeAnn Grigg, Jeanna Lee, Stacy McGinnis, Kathy Reyes, Veronica Rodriguez, Jackie and Benny Corley, Sue and Eddy Spiller, or Bette and Jerry McCutchen.

## Street Affair Rummage and Bake Sale set

It's a fundraiser! Everyone who enjoys the Street Affair, a one-time-a-year event, is asked to help. Clean out those things you no longer need and donate them to the Street Affair cause. Drop-off locations for items include Designs by Toni, Massey



**New Business in Bronte!** Work is progressing on the new Dollar General store in Bronte. The foundation is in place for the new 9100 square foot store, which is located across Highway 277 from Red Barn Barbecue in Bronte. According to Mike Weekly, Construction Superintendent for Reeves Development, who is building the new facility, the approximate timetable for construction of the new business goes like this: on March 16, the steel building parts are to be delivered to the new location; with the building going up ten days to two weeks thereafter. The month of April will be filled with the interior work on the new store. Stocking of shelves will be done the first two weeks of May, with the opening of the facility set for mid-May to June 1.

An interesting detail concerning the new store, according to the building superintendent, is that most folks think that the Family Dollar, Dollar General, and Dollar Stores are all related. This is not the case, according to Weekly, as he indicated that all three of these businesses are completely different companies, and are competitors in the markets which they serve.

Auto and Hardware and Amazing Hair Salon and Gifts. The Street Affair Committee is having a Rummage and Bake Sale on Saturday, April 4, at the Wojtek Building (Old Ben Bessent Chevrolet building) in Robert Lee. The use of the building is being donated by Dale and Sue Wojtek. Everyone is encouraged to donate baked goods and items for the rummage sale to make the Street Affair successful. All donations left over will be donated to Christians In Action.

## Sports package tickets for sale

Relay for Life "Team Boo" will be selling chances to win a Robert Lee Sporting Package. The package will include:

- \*2 Steer stadium chairs - donated by Mountain Creek RV
- \*2 Steer drink mugs - donated by Mountain Creek RV
- \*2 Steer T-shirts - donated by Mountain Creek RV
- \*2 2009-2010 tickets to all Dogie/Steer games/extra-curricular activities-donated by RLISD
- \*Spirit Flcece blanket-handmade and donated by

## Team Boo!

Team members include the following 7th and 8th graders from Robert Lee: Ashlie Wheat, Lubbock Roe, Sarah Lara, Dusty Howard, Jesse Sheets, Alexis Mendoza, Sydney Sheldon, Bernice Fabian, Taylor Sheldon, Kelsie Hewitt, Ashlie Tennison, Will Howard, Amy Sheets - Team Captain and Jan Sheets - Honorary Survivor.

## Bronte City-Wide Garage Sale slated

The Sorosis Study Club has again voted to provide all of the advertising for the Bronte City-Wide Garage Sale and yes, it's that time again! Mark your calendars for the first Saturday of May (May 3) at 8 am.

If you want to participate and have a garage sale, please call City Hall at 473-3501 and they will add your location to the city maps that will be given away the day of the garage sales. This is a great opportunity to clean out your closets and sell, sell, sell! Remember to call Bronte City Hall and get your name on the map.

If you have questions, or need additional information, please call Pat or Tammy at 473-3501.

## Gourmet Popcorn for sale

The Coke County Relay for Life team "Prayin' for a Cure" is selling gourmet popcorn for their fundraiser. Popcorn flavors are Butter, Carmel, Cheese, Dark Chocolate, Salsa 'n' Cheddar, Vanilla, and White Cheddar. Please call Kenda or Karen Rasco at 453-5408 or email karasco@wtxs.net to place your order. "Prayin' for a Cure" team members are Kenda Rasco, Karen Rasco, Cole Rasco, Cathy Jenkins, Doris McIntosh, and Caitlyn McIntosh.

## BHRC Aux. invites new members

Everyone is invited to join the Bronte Health and Rehab Center Auxiliary for 2009. They have their monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 1 pm at the center. Lunch is provided for a small donation. They would truly appreciate everyone joining the auxiliary and attending the auxiliary meetings and assisting in the decision-making, but anyone is welcome to join even if they cannot attend meetings.

**THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE**

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**Obituaries**



**Thomason**

Mildred H. Thomason, age 93, born on March 10, 1915, in Travis County, Texas, passed away in a local nursing home on Thursday, March 5, 2009.

Mildred was preceded in death by her parents, Oscar and Virgie Heidel, her husband, Will G. Thomason in 1988, daughter Carol Lynn Blumentritt Maxey, three sisters and one brother.

She is survived by son, William P. Thomason and wife Nelda of Maverick, daughter Tommie E. Chambers and husband, Glenn of Dallas, grandchildren, David Thomason and wife, Gail, Micha Thomason Aldon and husband Tom, Kelley Blumentritt Harrell and husband, Jacques, Tracie Blumentritt and partner, Rebecca Angle, Anne Chambers Thorpe and husband, Dion, Elizabeth Chambers Brown and husband, Jon, Katherine Chambers Brown and husband, Jim, and 14 great-grandchildren.

Mildred grew up in the Bronte, Texas, area graduating from the Bronte schools and was in the first class of Angelo College. She taught in a one-room school, later worked in radio, managing a station in Midland. After retirement Mildred moved back to the Maverick place where she was active in the Bronte Methodist Church, Eastern Star and Diversity Club. For a number of years, Mildred was a resident of Christian Village, San Angelo, but for health reasons has been a resident of the Bronte Nursing and Rehab for the last few months.

We love you "Ma" and are so thankful we had you all

these years.

Services were held at 2 pm on Sunday, March 8, 2009, at the First United Methodist Church in Bronte with Pastor David Bailey officiating, interment following in the Bronte Fairview Cemetery. Services were under the direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

The family asks that memorials be made to the First United Methodist Church of Bronte or a charity of your choice.

34-1tc

**Death Notices**

**Smith**

Roland D. Smith, 89, died Sunday, March 8, 2009, at a San Angelo hospital. Visitation was all day Tuesday, March 10, 2009. Funeral service was at 2 pm, Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at Robert Lee Baptist Church with burial following at Robert Lee Cemetery. Arrangements were by Shaffer Funeral Home.

Survivors include his sons, Charles Smith of Mineral Wells, R.D. Smith Jr. of Robert Lee, and James Smith of Virginia Beach, Virginia; his brother, Hughes Smith of Morton; and his sister, Una Harris of Ryan, Oklahoma.

**Attention Crafters in Coke County**

Bronte Chamber of Commerce is having a Craft Fair on June 6, 2009. The Community Center on East Oliver will be the site for the event. There is a small

charge for the indoor booths (10'x10'). Set up time for vendors is 8 am, time for fair is 10 am. For more information or an application, call 473-2604 or 473-2093.

**Why we Relay...**

Coke County Relay For Life will be Friday, April 3. The event will begin at 7 pm and run through Saturday, April 4 at 7 am and will be held at the Robert Lee ISD football field/track. The following explains what Relay means to the participants.

Relay For Life starts at dusk and ends the next morning. The light and darkness of the day and night parallel the cancer patient undergoing treatment. The Relay begins at sunset, which symbolizes the time a person is diagnosed with cancer. As the evening progresses, it gets colder and darker - this represents the patients struggle as they endure the emotions of being a cancer patient.

The time between 1 am and 2 am represents when the cancer patient starts treatment. They become exhausted, some sick, not wanting to go on, possibly wanting to give up. As a participant in the Relay, you have been walking and feel much the same way. Like the cancer patient, you cannot stop or give up.

The time around 4 am to 5 am symbolizes the completion of treatment for the cancer patient. Once again, they are tired, but they know they will make it.

The sun rising represents the end of treatment for the cancer patient. They see the light that life will go on. The morning light brings on a new day, full of life and excitement for new beginnings. As a participant, you will feel the brightness of the morning and know that the end of Relay is close at hand.

When you leave the Relay, think of the cancer patient leaving their last treatment. Just as you are exhausted and weak, so is that person, but there is hope in the new day! The money raised at Relay will support patient services, lifesaving research, education, and advocacy

efforts...and that is why we Relay!

Remember: There is no finish line until we find a cure! And together we can make a difference.

There is still time to get your friends, family or co-workers together and start a team! Teams are made up of 8-15 people with a small registration fee per person. Contact Judy Blair, 453-2380, Lanette Fletcher, 473-6791 or DeeAnna Harmon 453-2545 for more information.

**Feed a family of 4 with Angel Food Ministries**

Angel Food Ministry food orders are being taken at the Central Baptist Church in Bronte this month on March 13 between 9:45 am and 11:45 am. Last day to order is March 15. Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing grocery relief to communities. Menus may be viewed online at their website www.angelfoodministries.com or calling a volunteer. Food stamps are accepted. Orders may also be done online at: www.angelfoodministries.com by entering Bronte zip code 76933. Local Bronte volunteers are Johnnie (277-4040), Donna (473-5341) or Jeanette (340-0608). There are also volunteers in Blackwell and Robert Lee, please call Jeanette at (325)

340-0608 for more information.

**We the People**

By Jim Clendennen

In only six weeks since the inauguration of Barak Hussein Obama our nation has gone from being in trying times to the point of being in peril of abandoning our Constitution and being ruled by an Executive whose very eligibility to serve as president is being challenged by several lawsuits. Our voices are being ignored by our representatives in Congress. Our Congress has passed huge spending bills without debate because President Bush and President Obama have both demanded immediate action. The set up for the destruction of the American middle class was begun years ago and has proceeded stealthily until George W. Bush demanded the immediate passage of the "Bailout" last fall. That was supposed to fix the problem. The "Stimulus" bill was passed without any of the members of Congress even reading it. The futures of our children, grandchildren, and even their grandchildren have been sacrificed on the altar of debt to international banks. Did all this happen accidentally? I contend that it has not. Obama followed up his "Stimulus" success with the introduction of a three and one half trillion dollar budget. Bigger spending is scheduled to follow.

**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

Dale Patterson, 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

Ray Aldridge, Pastor  
 Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

**First Baptist Church**  
 424 S. Washington • Bronte  
 (325) 473-2331

Bro. Corey Cornutt, 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 am Sunday School  
 11 am Worship  
 5 pm Youth

**First United Methodist Church**  
 PO Box 144 • 9th and Chadbourne  
 Robert Lee

(325) 453-2417  
 Steve Peyton, Pastor  
 Sun. 10 am Sunay School  
 11 am Worship  
 5:30 pm Choir Practice

**Iglesia Bautista Bethel**  
 101 Houston • Robert Lee  
 (325) 763-9208 • 320-1354

Sun. 10 am • Worship  
 11 am & 6 pm • Service  
 Wed. 7 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 508 • 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 Church**  
 PO Box 542 • 12 miles west of  
 Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy  
 (325) 453-2482

Jim Dominey, 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. 6 pm Prayer Meeting  
**Tennyson Baptist Church**  
 Hwy 277 • Tennyson

Joe Hodges, Pastor  
 (325) 473-2040  
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School  
 11 am & 6 pm, Worship

Wed. 6 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  
**St. James Catholic Church**  
 215 N. Washington, Bronte  
 (325) 365-2687

Rev. Hubert Wade, Pastor  
 Sun. 5 pm

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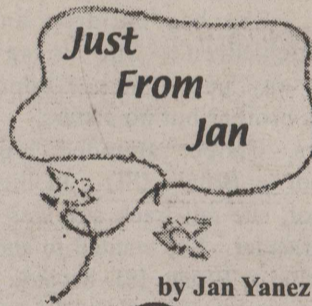
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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

George H. Bush and George W. Bush were both committed to one world government albeit they stayed in the closet when out among the folks. Obama is out of the closet and on the fast track to drag us down to the level of a third world country equal to all others in what will be a nightmare of world socialism. Obama has been groomed for this task since he was in college. One of his chief mentors was and is Zbigniew Brzezinski, a true believer in one world government. Brzezinski was national security advisor to Jimmy Carter. Here is a quote from Brzezinski, "This regionalization is in keeping with the Tri-Lateral Plan which calls for a gradual convergence of East and West, ultimately leading toward the goal of one world government. National sovereignty is no longer a viable concept." We are now in for a wild ride of hyper-inflation and continual crisis purposefully designed to break the will of the American middle class until we are ready to abandon our Constitutional Rights and accept the gracious mercies of a world socialist government. We must go on offense and restore the Republic the founders gave us. We the People are in the majority. Few generations that have walked the earth have been privileged to have a cause so great to fight for.



by Jan Yanez

AgriLIFE EXTENSION Agent

### Lawn Mowing Tips

Mowing is an integral part of maintaining a healthy lawn, and if done correctly, allows a lawn to grow thicker and fuller throughout the season. Keeping your lawn in the best shape can be as easy as following a few important guidelines.

For starters, when a lawn is consistently mowed too short, it compensates by shortening its root system. A shorter root system means that the grass will require frequent watering and fertilization due to the plant's reduced ability to retain moisture and nutrients.

This is why setting your lawn mower blade to the proper mowing height is essential. Depending on your grass type, mowing height may vary, but a general rule of thumb is to set the blade between three and three and a half inches high. At this height, the grass will be able to produce more food, increase its oxygen intake and generally keep a consistent green color for

longer. Thicker grass will furthermore act as a natural weed control by crowding out the unwanted competition.

Keeping the lawn mower blade sharp is also important. Dull mower blades rip grass, instead of cutting it, opening the grass up to potential insect and disease problems. The easiest way to ensure your blades are kept sharp is to follow the "holiday schedule", meaning sharpening mower blades around Memorial Day, the 4th of July, Labor Day and Thanksgiving.

When possible, mow grass in the late afternoon and evening. This gives your lawn ample time to heal in the cooler temperatures. Mowing during the heat of the day is not recommended. Remember to leave the grass clippings on the yard after you mow, because these clippings will act as a natural fertilizer as they decompose.

### Wildfire Awareness and Preparation

Wildland fires pose a threat throughout Texas, especially when dry weather conditions combine with high winds and extreme temperatures. Whether you live near open grassland, in a suburban area on the edge of town or in a forested area, fire can threaten your home. When weather conditions make wildland fires more likely, take the following precautions:

- Keep fire fighting tools handy, such as: ladder long enough to reach the roof, shovel, rake and buckets.
- Place connected garden hoses on all sides of the house for emergency use.
- Know all emergency exits from your house.
- Learn all routes leading out of your neighborhood. As fires actually approach, take the following actions:
  - Park your car facing the direction of escape.
  - Shut off gas at the meter. Only a qualified professional can safely turn the gas back on.
  - Turn off propane tanks.
  - Place combustible patio furniture inside.
  - Seal vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
  - Wet down or remove shrubs within 15 feet of your residence.
  - Place lawn sprinklers on

roof and near above-ground fuel tanks. Wet down the roof.

- Close windows, vents, doors, blinds and non combustible window coverings. Remove flammable drapes and curtains.

- Close interior doors and windows to prevent drafts. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Choose a route away from the fire hazard and be alert to changes in the speed and direction of fire and smoke.

For more information on fire danger and advisories, see the Texas Forest Service Website at: <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>.

For more information, contact GDEM Public Information at (512) 424-2138 or visit GDEM's Website: [www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem).

### Six Tips for Investors in a New Economy

By Dan Greenshields, President & CEO of ShareBuilder Corporation

Over the last 12 months, the Dow Jones Industrial average has declined more than 37 percent. So the desire to give up on investing is certainly understandable.

But over the long haul, the stock market has historically outperformed most other type of investments like cash, bonds and real estate. Why is this? Companies are dynamic. Unlike a Bond, Gold, or Real Estate, a company's management and Board of Directors can adjust and change to new market environments. Some companies are more successful at doing this, but a diversified portfolio will reduce risk of any one company.

So if you have long-term financial goals, the stock market is still the best place to put your money -- especially now, with stock prices at historic lows.

To be certain, investing is risky. However, there are some simple steps you can take to minimize your risk and maximize your gain. Here are six to help you kick start 2009.

#### Remain Calm

Stock purchasing should be seen as a marathon, not a sprint. A knee-jerk reaction to a market downturn is never the answer. Resist the urge to pull your money out of the stock market and put it all in low-risk -- and, thus, low-

yield -- investments. You can hedge against massive losses by keeping a balanced portfolio. Let your money work for you to make up ground you lost last year. It can't do that sitting in a cookie jar.

#### Earn Rewards, Avoid Instant Gratification

Whether you're saving for a long-term goal such as retirement, or a mid-term goal like a child's education, you should set target milestones and reward yourself for reaching them. For instance, don't buy a new television until you've made regular contributions to your 401(k) for a set number of months. You'll feel better about your purchase knowing that you truly earned it.

#### Set Up Automatic Savings

Make long-term savings like a bill, just like cable television or your cell phone. Pay \$50, \$100, \$200 -- whatever you can stomach -- each and every month into your savings or investment account.

Most employers allow you to automatically deposit a set amount right from your paycheck to your savings account, or to a retirement vehicle like a 401k. You'll hardly even notice the difference in your paycheck -- but you'll be awfully glad you did it later.

#### Do Your Research, Then Diversify

You have to do your research. Just like you're not going to get a flat stomach without working for it, you aren't going to achieve investment success without working for it. There are plenty of newspapers and newsletters you can subscribe to. The internet is also an excellent tool to do stock research.

While just about every investor lost money this past year, the people with well-diversified portfolios weren't hit as hard. Just like a healthy diet consists of foods from many different food groups, a healthy portfolio consists of many different kinds of investments, including stocks, bonds, and money market accounts.

#### Exploit Retirement Vehicles

Many employers will match money you contribute to your 401(k) retirement account. If you don't already contribute to your 401(k), start now. And whatever you need to do to take advantage of employer matching funds, make sure you do it. It's free money for your retirement. Take it!

Additionally, there are tax incentives for opening and maintaining Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). With the Roth IRA, for example, you contribute after-tax money -- but your retirement withdrawals are tax free, earnings and all. Just be sure to talk to your tax adviser.

#### Make Investing a Way of Life

Investing should be the way of life for the entire family. Set a good example for your children by planning for your future and theirs. Get them excited about saving and investing. You'll all be richer for it -- literally and figuratively.

The recent market turmoil has been quite nerve-racking. But historically, it's downturns like these that have been the best times to invest. And hard economic times show how important it is to save for a rainy day. So start investing. The sooner you start and the longer you save, the better off you'll be.

## Editorial & Advertising Deadline is 2 pm on Tuesday preceding publication.

# THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County  
P.O. Box 1329 Robert Lee, TX 76945  
(915) 453-2433

**LORDY! LORDY!**  
**Our Baby Brother Turned 40!**



**Love You!**  
**Mary & Luther**

**MOUNTAIN CREEK MERCANTILE**

1/4 mile east of Robert Lee  
453-2731

**Menu**

**Monday, March 16**  
Hamburger Steak

**Tuesday, March 17**  
Corn Beef & Cabbage

**Wednesday, March 18**  
Shepherd's Pie with Ground Beef

**Thursday, March 19**  
Chicken Pot Pie

**Friday, March 20**  
Guiso

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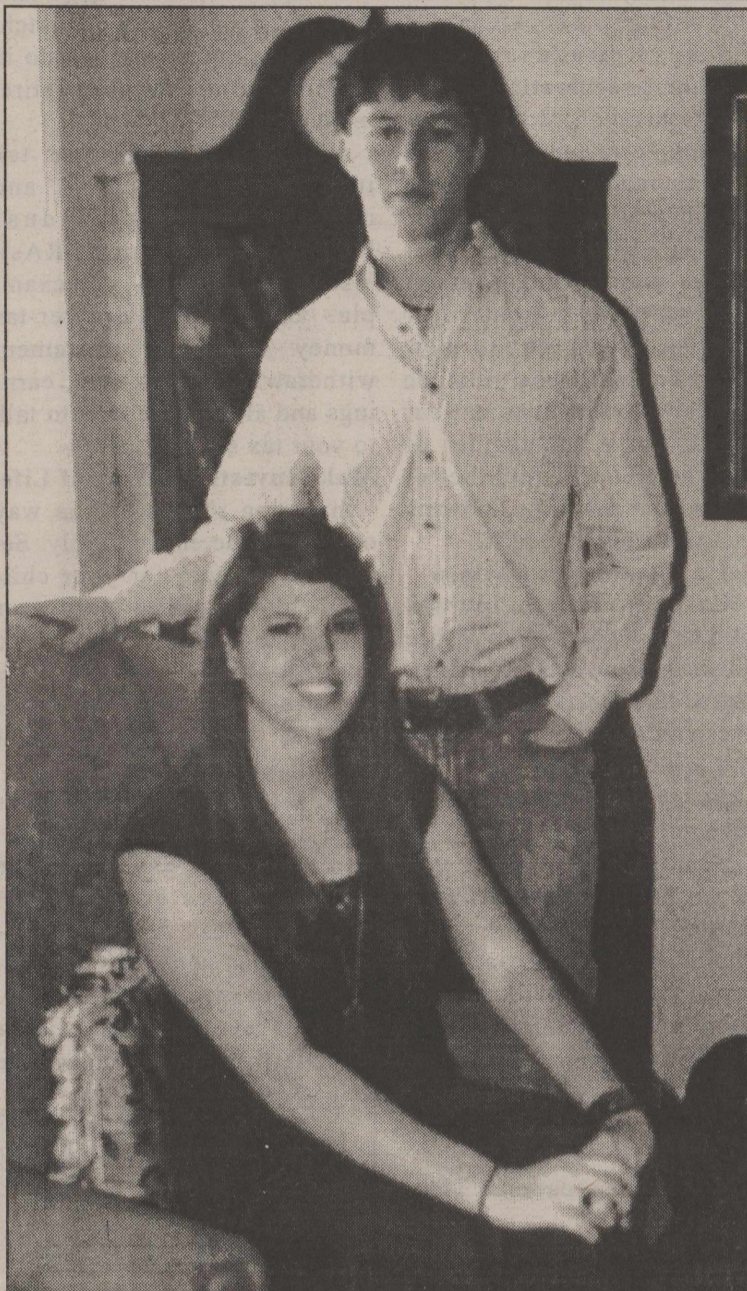
202 Commerce St. • Robert Lee  
453-2060

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**Come See Us!**  
**Rhonda, Foy, Louis, Joe**

# BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS



**Mr. and Miss BHS!** Samuel Rawlings was recently named Mr. BHS, while Ariel Coalson was honored with the title of Miss BHS. Samuel is the son of the Kary Rawlings and the late David Rawlings. Ariel is the daughter of Wayne and Shaye Coalson.

the counselor's office at BHS or on the BHS Counselor's Corner web page under "Scholarships".

All applications must be returned to The First National Bank of Sterling City - Bronte location, no later than 3 pm on March 31, 2009. For additional information, please contact the counselor's office at BHS at 473-2521.

### Register for the ACT Test

Junior and senior high school students may still register for the April 4, 2009, ACT test until March 13, 2009. There will be a late charge. Bronte High School will be a testing center for the April 4 test.

Students may also register for the June 13, 2009, ACT by May 8 and pay the regular registration fee.

Application packets are available in the counselor's office at BHS or register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). Please remember that fee waivers are available for students who receive free or reduced lunches. See the high school counselor for waiver forms.

### Lady Horns named to All-District

All district selections were made in District 11A recently with six Bronte Girls Basketball team members receiving honors at the All District level.

Honors include Kaycee Baker - Newcomer of the Year; Chelsea Meek - All District Team; Chelsea Cook - All District Team; Chelsea McGinnis - All District Team; Kimber Lee - All District Honorable Mention; and Jill Scott - All District Honorable Mention.



### Melissa Boyd

by Raleigh Hunter Hortenstine

Mrs. Melissa Boyd lives with her husband, Marty, and two daughters, Cheyenne and Whitney in Bronte. They do not have any pets. Mrs. Boyd has one sister.

Mrs. Boyd went to school at Hawley where she was on

the drill team and editor for the yearbook. She attended Angelo State University for four years. She began teaching because she loves kids. She was inspired by her 2nd grade teacher and now has been teaching for 17 years. Mrs. Boyd loves teaching her students the ABC's.

Mrs. Boyd's favorite food is Mexican food. She loves chocolate chip cookies. Her favorite color is blue. She loves the summertime. She likes to ride horses and play softball. Her favorite shape is an oval. Mrs. Boyd likes to read the Bible. Her favorite vacation spot is Lake LBJ. Her hobby is reading. When Mrs. Boyd is with her family, she is the happiest. Her favorite quote is "If you can't say something nice, then don't say anything at all!"

Her most embarrassing moment was when her pants split when singing songs in class.

Mrs. Boyd was my Pre-K teacher and I am sure the other kids have enjoyed her as much as I did.

### Michele Bearden

by Analyn Alizabeth Bohensky

Mrs. Michele Bearden lives with her husband, Nathan, and her son, Parker in San Angelo. They have some dogs, horses, and fish. She has two sisters, Danielle and Deann, whom she gets to see everyday because they work at Bronte ISD also.

Mrs. Bearden attended school at Bronte ISD 1st through 12th grade and played volleyball and basketball in high school. She attended college at Tarleton State University in Stephenville. It took her five years to receive her degree. She started teaching because she loves kids. She has been working at Bronte ISD for 14 years and her favorite subject to teach is English.

Her favorite food is steak and then something chocolate. She loves the color purple. She likes springtime. Her favorite animal is the koala bear. Her favorite shape is a circle. She likes volleyball. Her favorite book is The Polar Express. Mrs. Bearden's favorite vacation spot is Las Vegas, Nevada.

Her hobby is taking care of her son, Parker. When kids succeed, it makes her happy.

Her most embarrassing moment was when she fell from the top of the cheerleading pyramid in high school.

Mrs. Bearden is a very beloved and hard working teacher.

### Linda Jennings

by Brittany Bedford

Mrs. Linda Jennings lives in Bronte. She has two sons and two grandchildren. She has one brother and one sister.

She attended Novice High School. She went to college at Tarleton in Stephenville where she received her certificate. She started working with children because she likes to be with children. She's been helping at Bronte ISD since September. Her favorite subjects to help with are reading and math.

These are some of her favorite things: Mexican food, brownies, the color pink, and horses. Her favorite shape is an oval, and she enjoys horseback riding and basketball. Her favorite book is Western Horsemen. Her favorite vacation spot is Colorado. Her hobby is going to rodeos. Being with people makes her happy. Her favorite saying is "Better late than never."

Her most embarrassing moment is when she fell off her horse in the rodeo and broke her tailbone.

We are glad the Concho Valley Foster Grandparent program assigned Mrs. Jennings to Bronte ISD.

### Nancy Cooper

by Darby Duncan

Mrs. Nancy Cooper lives in Coke County with her husband, Ron. She has children and grandchildren. She doesn't have any pets. Mrs. Cooper has a brother but no sisters.

Mrs. Cooper attended high school at Bronte ISD. In high school, she ran track and was a cheerleader. She wanted to start working at Bronte ISD because it was a great opportunity. She has been working at Bronte ISD for sixteen years.

Her favorite food is dessert. Her favorite dessert is chocolate cheese cake with raspberries on top. Pink is her favorite color. She loves the summertime. Her favorite animal is a dog. Her favorite shape is a circle. Her favorite sport is football. Her favorite vacation spot is any place with family and friends, which is what makes her the happiest. Her hobby is glass fusing.

We are so glad Nancy works at Bronte ISD.

### Candidates for BISD School Board

Bronte ISD has four vacancies to fill for full three year terms. Three positions are full three year terms currently held by Wayne Coalson, Jeff Schoenfield and Bob Frazee. The following are the candidates for these positions. They include Jeff Schoenfield, Wayne Coalson, Ericka Knight, Kyle James, Kay Styles and Doug Tounget. The fourth position is for the last year of a three year term currently held by board-appointed Shane Kelton, who has filed for reelection.

### Tour ASU

Angelo State University is hosting a Discover ASU Day, Saturday, March 28, from 9:30 am until 2 pm. The event will provide information about the university, a tour of the campus, and also an opportunity to talk with professors and organizations. Discover ASU Day is free and high school students and/or their parents/guardians may also attend. A free lunch is included. Register online at [www.angelo.edu](http://www.angelo.edu) or call 942-2058 to register.

### Bronte Scholarships Available

The C.J. Macon Memorial Scholarship and the Bronte Community Scholarship are now available to graduating seniors at Bronte High

School. Applications are available online at [www.bronteisd.net](http://www.bronteisd.net) on the Counselor's Corner page under scholarships or may be picked up in the counselor's office. The deadline to apply for both scholarships is April 14, 2009. The C.J. Macon Memorial Scholarship is also open to past BHS graduates. Please turn in applications to Mrs. Timmerman, counselor. For more information, please call the counselor's office at 473-2521.

### FNB-SC Scholarship available

The First National Bank of Sterling City will fund one \$4,000 scholarship to a graduating senior at Bronte High School. One thousand (\$1,000) per year will be funded - \$500 per fall and spring semesters. To be eligible to apply and be considered for the scholarship, an applicant must have been a full-time student of Bronte High School for his or her junior and senior years. The four semesters, including the semester of application, shall have been consecutive semesters at BHS. The student must have at least an 85 high school average for his or her four-year high school career. The student must be enrolled in the accelerated/advanced curriculum section at BHS. Applications are available in

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# ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS

## RLHS Golf results

The Robert Lee Invitational Tournament for the boys was held on March 4. The Steers team won their own tournament shooting a 305 to out-distance 2nd place Bronte by 17 shots (322).

The tournament field consisted of 14 teams. Logan Philley paced the Steers with an outstanding 5 under par round of 66 to take the medalist honors. Mason Ross had a 79 for fourth medalist and Haden Dillard and Foster Allen finished tied for 5th with their two 80's. Cody Brosh rounded out the team scoring with an 84. Josh Tennison and Blake Millican competed in the medalist race, shooting 96 and 100 respectively.

The Lady Steers also hosted a tournament on March 5th and finished 2nd in a thirteen team field, losing only to Jim Ned by 3 shots-422-425. Colorado City finished at 3rd with a 429. The Lady Steers were led by Meagan Ross' 94, good enough for second place in the medalist race. Other Lady Steers scores were: Briana Brisbin 105, Rebecca Saucedo 112, Amanda Mendoza 119, and Sarah Walker 123.

## Food Allergies On The Rise In Millions Of Kids

It seems that every school today is filled with kids who are allergic to the basic foods of childhood -- from peanuts to eggs to milk. And while the problem may not be as widespread as it seems, it's only getting worse.

The number of young people who had a food or digestive allergy increased 18 percent between 1997 and 2007, according to a new report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2007, approximately three million U.S. children and teenagers under age 18 were reported to have a food or digestive allergy in the previous 12 months, compared to just over 2.3 million (3.3 percent) in 1997.

The report found that eight types of food account for 90 percent of all food allergies: milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, soy, and wheat. Reactions to these foods by an allergic person can range from a tingling sensation around the mouth and lips, to hives and even death, depending on the severity of the reaction.

Children with food allergy are two to four times more likely to have other related conditions such as asthma and other allergies, compared to children without food allergies, the report said.

The findings were published in a new data brief, entitled "Food Allergy Among U.S. Children: Trends in Prevalence and Hospitalizations." The data are from the National Health Interview Survey and the

National Hospital Discharge Survey, both conducted by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics.

The researchers made some significant findings:

\* Boys and girls had similar rates of food allergy -- 3.8 percent for boys and 4.1 percent for girls.

\* Approximately 4.7 percent of children younger than five years had a reported food allergy compared to 3.7 percent of children and teens aged five to 17 years.

\* Hispanic children had lower rates of reported food allergy (3.1 percent) than non-Hispanic white (4.1 percent) or non-Hispanic black children (four percent.)

\* In 2007, 29 percent of children with food allergy also had reported asthma compared to 12 percent of children without food allergy.

\* Approximately 27 percent of children with food allergy had reported eczema or skin allergy, compared to eight percent of children without food allergy.

\* Over 30 percent of children with food allergy also had reported respiratory allergy, compared with nine percent of children with no food allergy.

\* From 2004 to 2006, there were approximately 9,537 hospital discharges per year with a diagnosis related to food allergy among children from birth to 17 years. Hospital discharges with a diagnosis related to food allergy increased significantly over time between 1998-2000 through 2004-2006.

The mechanisms by which a person develops an allergy to specific foods are largely unknown. Food allergy is more prevalent in children than adults. Most affected children will out-grow food allergies say experts, although food allergy can be a lifelong concern.

The full report is available at [www.cdc.gov/nchs](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs).

## Sneak Whole Grains Into Spring Desserts

The trick to getting your family to eat right isn't to force-feed them foods you already know they hate.

Leave the tofu ice cream or carob-covered rice cakes on the supermarket shelves this season and get creative by incorporating healthful twists into traditional spring desserts your family already loves.

Only one in 10 Americans is getting the recommended amount of whole grain. One way to sneak more whole grain onto your family's plates is to bake it into their favorite desserts.

Delectable seasonal treats like fresh berry crisps, fruit breads, berry muffins and scones all can be baked using whole wheat flour or whole oats. Even that perennial favorite, the chocolate chip cookie can incorporate whole wheat flour - without your family tasting a difference.

If you are new to baking with whole wheat flour, it can seem

overwhelming at first because you can't automatically substitute it for white flour in most recipes, since it behaves differently.

With this in mind, on behalf of Gold Medal Whole Wheat Flour, the experts at the Betty Crocker Kitchens have created a series of free recipes incorporating whole wheat flour into classic recipes. You can visit [www.goldmedalwholewheat.com](http://www.goldmedalwholewheat.com) to access these recipes, along with tips to adapt your own recipes using whole wheat flour.

"Whole wheat flour has a nutritional boost because of natural antioxidants, fiber, B-vitamins, and plant nutrients," said David Eisen, Marketing Manager Flour and Heritage Desserts. "The 2005 Dietary Guidelines recommend making half your grains whole. Small changes throughout the diet can add up for big health benefits. Learning how to successfully substitute whole wheat flour in a favorite recipe is a great start to meeting your whole grain needs."

However, all whole wheat flours are not created equal. Different milling methods can affect the way a certain brand of whole wheat flour works in a recipe, so it's important to choose the right one when substituting whole wheat flour in baked goods.

Some whole wheat flours are coarse, which can interfere with gluten development in baked goods. But such flours as Gold Medal flour are specially milled to even, medium fine granulation, making them extremely versatile and adaptable for baking breads, pancakes and cookies.

Whole wheat flour cannot always be substituted one-to-one for white flour, though. Whole wheat flour absorbs more liquid than all-purpose flour, so it's sometimes necessary to increase the liquid in recipes when making a flour substitution.

"Baking more healthful desserts is all about substitution," said Eisen. "You can swap out unhealthy ingredients for more healthful alternatives and can sneak more whole grains into recipes."

Here's a delicious recipe for chocolate chip cookies made with whole wheat flour:

### Whole Wheat Chocolate Chip Cookies

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 egg
- 2 cups Gold Medal whole wheat flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 bag (12 oz) semisweet chocolate chips (2 cups)

\* Heat oven to 375 degrees F. In large bowl, mix sugars, butter, vanilla and egg until

blended. Stir in flour, baking soda and salt (dough will be stiff). Stir in chocolate chips.

\* On ungreased cookie sheets, drop dough by rounded tablespoonfuls about two inches apart.

\* Bake eight to ten minutes or until light brown (centers will be soft). Cool two minutes; remove from cookie sheets to cooling racks. Yields three dozen cookies.

## Make Sure Your Doctor's Office Is Safe

Is your doctor's office safe enough? One in five Americans report that they or one of their family members have been on the receiving end of mistakes in a doctor's office or hospital, according to recent research.

Patient safety issues should be near the top of your list when choosing medical care for your family. According to the Institute of Medicine at the National Academies of Science, between 44,000 and 98,000 people die yearly due to preventable medical errors.

"Being safe is all about making sure you are a good medical consumer. The next time you go to a doctor's office, pay attention to whether or not the facility maintains basic rules of cleanliness and that equipment and instruments are up-to-date and appear safe," said Craig Turner, CEO and Chairman of MedPro Safety Products, a developer of medical-safety devices.

There are many areas of which to take note, including making sure you receive proper instructions for medications, checking if the doctors or nurses use safety needles when drawing blood or giving shots, and even something as simple as hand washing.

Here are some tips from Turner and the experts at MedPro to help make sure your next doctor's visit is a safe one:

\* Communication is key. Make sure the doctor has your complete medical history, including all allergies and medications you take (even non-prescription ones). Never be embarrassed to say you don't understand or ask questions about medical

treatments, medicines, or anything else. Ask to receive all instructions both verbally and in writing. Before signing any medical forms, make sure you understand them. If you think something is wrong, speak up.

\* Scrutinize all equipment and instruments. Do things in your doctor's office look clean and up-to-date? Do instruments get reused when they should be sterilized? Is the right equipment available or is the doctor simply using what is available?

\* Needle safety is critical when giving a blood sample or receiving a shot. Millions of accidental needlestick injuries occur yearly. These can spread hepatitis, HIV, tuberculosis, syphilis, malaria, and many other infections. Check if your doctor's office uses safety needles such as those offered by MedPro Safety Products, which prevent accidental needlesticks through mechanisms that automatically activate to cover the needle. The needle is encapsulated, retracted and sheathed like a ballpoint pen once pulled out of the patient. This protects both you and the person administering the needle.

\* Double-check medicines, including samples. Make sure you receive the right medicine and know how to use it. Read all labels, especially warnings and instructions when you get any medicine - whether it's from the pharmacy or a sample from your doctor. Patients often receive samples directly from doctors that don't include the same instruction inserts given at the pharmacy. Don't be afraid to tell the doctor if you think the medicine is the wrong one for you. If you are given a prescription, make sure it is legible. If you can't decipher it, the pharmacist might not either.

\* Cleanliness is king. Don't be afraid to remind doctors or nurses to wash their hands. It's the best way to prevent the spread of infections.

"Many medical mistakes are easily preventable. Better communication can resolve many medication errors. Millions of needlesticks can be avoided simply by having safety needles available," stressed Turner. "It's up to the doctor and patient to make sure the environment is safe and communication is good."

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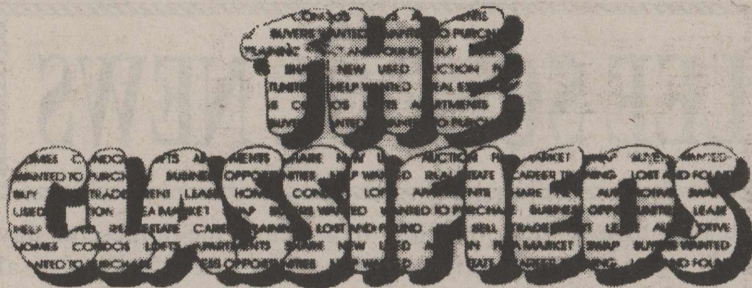
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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or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

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22-tnc

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33-4tc

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Van. \$3500. 473-9329.

29-tnc

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Ranch hand grill guard. Fits 1999 to 2002 Chevy Silverado PU. Call 325-763-7262.

34-1tp

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34-1tp

**FOR SALE**

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32-4tc

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**FOR RENT**

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01-tnc

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16-eow

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2 BD/2BA newly remodeled home 10 miles SW of Robert Lee. \$400.00 per month w/\$200.00 deposit. References required. No smoking. Pets negotiable. 325-277-7802.

33-2tp

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32-tnc(4tp)

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33-tnc

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33-4tp

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20-tnc

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50-tnc

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34-tnc

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25-25tc

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31-8tp

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33-2tc

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**GARAGE SALE**

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34-1tc

**CARD OF THANKS**

I APPRECIATE ALL the phone calls, visits and flowers I received when I was in the hospital and rehab.

Beverly Ragsdale and family  
34-1twp

**NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR OIL AND GAS WASTE DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT**

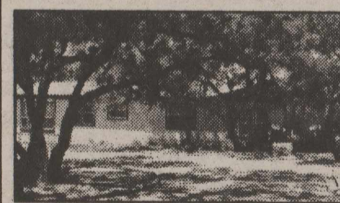
Clear Fork Incorporated, P.O. Box 3095, Abilene, Tx 79604 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the Strawn Reef Frost Pulling Unit Well Number 1. The proposed disposal well is located 5 Miles WSW of Blackwell in the Suggs (Ellenburger), in Coke County. The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 5840 to 6080 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

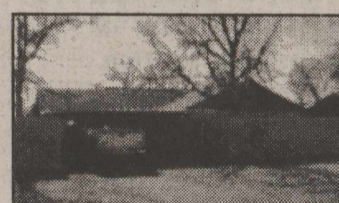
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**Editorial & Advertising Deadline is 2 pm on Tuesday preceding publication.**

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### Free Web Sites for the Budget Conscious

Everybody likes free stuff, but getting something for nothing with no strings attached sometimes seems impossible.

When it comes to using your home computer, however, free Web sites and services are springing up all around us. And with people nationwide striving to save their hard-earned cash these days, many are rushing to take advantage of free Internet offerings.

If you know where to look you can do just about everything for free online -- such as setting up a family Web site, getting tech support or managing your finances.

"According to Consumer Reports, consumers spend an average of \$100 offline to fix a computer problem, and only 42 percent are satisfied with the results," said Lisa Alderson, CEO of CrossLoop, an online tech support resource. "For the budget conscious, every dollar counts. Turning first to free or low-cost online services is a great way to get access to experts and solve your technology issues."

Here are several Web sites offering valuable free services:

**\* Free Personal Finance Services:** Managing your money shouldn't cost a bundle. Mint.com is a free personal finance service that takes only five minutes to set up. It automatically pulls together your bank, credit union and credit card data, and provides views of your financial life. It helps with family budgets and bill payments. The service even provides personalized money-saving and money-making suggestions. It also alerts you when you're exceeding your personal budget, have a low balance, need to pay a bill and when there's suspicious account activity.

**\* Free Computer Help and Tech Support:** When computer problems hit, instead of dealing with manufacturers' impersonal call centers or lugging their computers to costly tech support retailers, many users are flocking to CrossLoop (www.crossloop.com), a free desktop sharing application that connects computer users with trusted, tech-savvy friends or qualified service experts. If you turn to friends and family, they can walk you through your tech support needs by remotely taking over your computer to fix the problem on the spot for no cost.

"My 70-something parents have trouble explaining the computer problems they are having, so logging on remotely makes my job so much easier," said CrossLoop user, Rick Yates.

If you need additional support for a more complicated computer challenge -- such as learning how to use new software, removing a virus or setting up a personal blog -- more than 12,000 trusted Helpers in the CrossLoop Marketplace are available to provide low cost, qualified help anytime, anywhere.

**\* Free Family Web Sites:** Creating a family Web site sounds like a good idea, until you're faced with actually doing it. Not only can the technology be difficult to master, maintaining one can be costly with significant privacy issues to consider. A free service called MyFamily.com seems to have these issues under control,

enabling users to make private family Web sites for sharing stories, photos, videos, events and private family discussions. Family members even can leave voice messages directly on their sites or narrate photo slideshows by phone.

"Families use their sites to share what's going on today and also to reflect on past experiences together in a more meaningful way than email and more secure than public sharing sites," said Michael Graff, senior vice president and general manager of myfamily.com.

So get out there and get surfing. Who knows what free gem you may unearth the next time you take to your keyboard.

### How To Reach God

*John 14:6*

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.

*I Timothy 2:5*

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

*I John 2:23*

Whoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (But) He that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

*I John 5:12*

He that hath the son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

### How To Love And Please God

*John 14:23-24*

Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man love Me, he will keep my words: And my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: And the word which ye hear is not Mine, but the Father's which sent me.

*I John 5:3*

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: And His commandments are not grievous.

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**Pastor Irving Smith**

**Join us Sunday, March 15, at 6 pm, for the movie, *Fireproof*, featuring Kirk Cameron.**

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#### New to the Market - North Hwy 277 - Bronte, Texas

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#### New to the Market - 712 Washington - Bronte, Texas

Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath home with new appliances. New 30 yr. metal roof. Hardwood, tile and carpet floors. New appliances. Storage building.

#### New to the Market - 214 N. Alto - Blackwell, Texas

Serene 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2,207 sq. ft. home on 1.35 acres. Charming sunroom with woodburning stove. Private backyard with large trees and metal privacy fence. Fenced tract east of the house perfect for livestock. Must see!!!!

#### New to the Market - 401 N. Jefferson - Bronte, Texas

Charming 4 bedroom, 2 bath home on corner lot. Fenced backyard. Storm shelter and detached garage. Won't last long.

#### 339 Eds Road - Blackwell, Texas

Private peninsula overlooking Oak Creek Lake. 3 bedroom, 2 bath remodeled brick home on .7 landscaped acres. Private boat dock and ramp. Leased lake land. Must see!!!

#### 302 Hickman Road - Bronte, Texas

Amazing 1930's brick home on 59 cultivated acres. 4 bedroom, 3 bath. Modern appliances with numerous improvements. Metal shop and 3 stall horse pens. Horse lovers dream.

#### 338 Kennedy Road - Blackwell, Texas

Recreational property on Oak Creek Lake. Cozy 2 bedroom, 1 bath brick home with separate lakeside room for entertaining. Crappie house and two slip boat dock. Motivated seller!!!

#### 312 N. Woods - Bronte, Texas

Spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home. Remodeled with new appliances. Enclosed back porch and 3 car carport.

#### 310 N. Lombard - Bronte, Texas

Charming 3 bedroom, 1 bath completely remodeled home ready to move in. New appliances.

#### 708 Meadow Lane - Bronte, Texas

Must see, 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home with new metal roof and appliances. Outside city limits on 3 acres.

#### Highway 277 - Commercial Property

Eye-catching highway frontage with 4,000 sq. ft. shop with office and bathroom on 9 lots.

#### 117 W. 10th - Robert Lee, Texas

2 bedroom, 2 bath with 30 yr. metal roof, completely remodeled with new appliances and new carpet.

For more information,  
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**1999 Ford F-250 SuperCab** #H241B **\$ 6,995**

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**1999 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer** #7091A **\$ 5,995**

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### Be Cautious as Email Scams Abound During Slumping Economy

One booming business in the fading U.S. economy is email fraud. Online criminals are using concern about the economy and chaos in the financial markets as an opening to defraud worried consumers.

These new scams typically offer anxious consumers relief from tax bills or an alleged chance to protect their savings from loss or seizure.

The scammers send emails in which they pose as a financial institution, government agency, or credit counseling service. They entice consumers to provide sensitive information, such as social security numbers, account numbers and passwords. Although they promise consumers relief, these "phishing" scams are actually designed to use their personal information to steal from them.

"Be skeptical of any non-Certified email that asks for sensitive financial information or asks you to click on a link," said Peter Horan, chief executive officer of Goodmail Systems. "These emails could either be taking you to a site that is trying to steal your information or will download spyware onto your computer that will surreptitiously transmit personal information to criminals."

One current phishing tax scam features emails with the subject line "Who wouldn't jump at a little extra money from the Internal Revenue Service?" The body of this email includes a realistic looking but fake IRS logo and falsely tells recipients that they are entitled to a refund. The phishing site to which recipients are directed, requests social security numbers, as well as bank information, both of which can

lead to identity theft and financial fraud. Similar scams are being spread offering property tax relief.

Another type of email scam making the rounds this season tells taxpayers that they are entitled to a "stimulus payment" from the government. These emails "inform" recipients that their fiscal activity for the last year has been reviewed, and they are "eligible for a stimulus payment." The email urges the recipient to fill out and return an attached form, which then asks for sensitive financial information. Obviously it's all a scheme to steal information. What can you do to protect yourself?

First, check to see if that email is valid. One way to tell is to look for the blue ribbon envelope seal next to an email message in your inbox. This indicates the email is a Goodmail CertifiedEmail, which means it is authentic and that you're safe to click on the links within it. Many government agencies and tax preparers use Certified Email to let you know their emails are safe.

If you think an email requesting action on a bank or investment account might be legitimate, it's always best to type the Web site address directly into the address bar of your browser. Consumers also can contact the government agency, bank or financial institution directly by phone or email with any questions.

Suspected tax fraud can be reported to the IRS using IRS Form 3949-A, which is available for download from the IRS Web site at IRS.gov, or through the U.S. Mail by calling 1-800-829-3676. The completed form or a letter detailing the alleged fraudulent activity should be addressed to the Internal Revenue Service, Fresno, CA 93888.

### Make Extra Cash Selling Things In Internet Auctions

Which would you rather have: an attic full of stuff you don't use or extra cash?

In today's economy more people are opting for the latter and are selling unwanted items on such online auction sites as eBay.

"Before you start listing things on online auction sites, get familiar with how they work. There are as many shifty buyers as sellers," says Abby Stokes, author of the new book "Is This Thing On?" a computer handbook for regular people.

Here are some tips from her new book:

- \* Be as specific about an item's condition. You don't want to give the buyer an excuse to return something.

- \* A good photo will save you a thousand words.

- \* Be clear about who incurs shipping expenses. If the object is large or heavy you don't want to get stuck paying shipping.

- \* Post a clear return policy.

- \* If the buyer suggests an online payment service you've never heard of, check it out thoroughly before agreeing. Don't accept payment arrangements that make you uncomfortable. The most used service is PayPal.

- \* Beware of fraudulent checks or money orders. If you have questions about a check, bring it to your bank and have them look at it before shipping to the buyer. Most sellers stipulate a seven day waiting period for checks to clear before shipping.

For more tips on using computers, read "Is This Thing On?" (Workman Publishing) or visit [www.abbyandme.com](http://www.abbyandme.com).

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