

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Serving Coke County

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Vol. 125, No. 27

Friday, January 18, 2013

Special Government "Pull-Out" Section begins on Page 5

County Livestock Show starts today in Robert Lee

The 74th edition of the sale monies that come in Coke County Junior Livestock Show begins this evening, Friday, January 18, and continues tomorrow at the Sterling Lindsey Memorial Exhibition Building in Robert Lee.

This year's show will feature animals in the Market Lamb, Market Goat, Market Swine and Market Steer shows, but more importantly, many young exhibitors from around the county.

The county stock show offers the youth of Coke County an opportunity to exhibit their livestock projects which they have worked with for more than 11 months, in many cases.

Besides being a worthwhile educational activity for our youth in teaching them responsibility, working with others and numerous life skills, it is an important economic endeavor when you consider the animals purchased from county producers, feed purchased locally and the premium

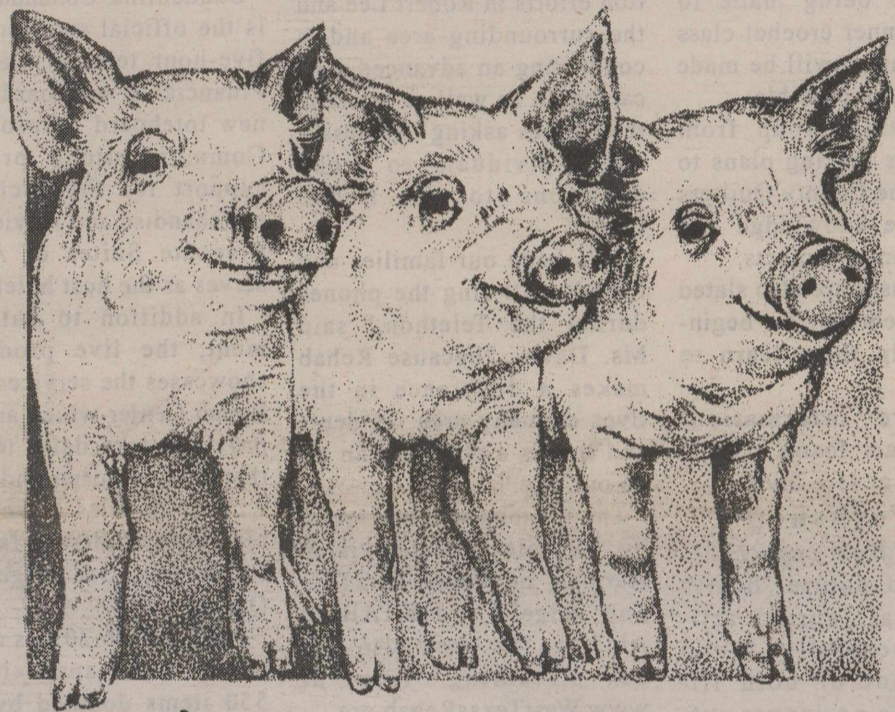
from county and other areas. The total amounts of monies generated by these exhibitors amounts to over \$150,000 per year that is circulated in the county.

The show will begin Friday, January 18, at 6:30 pm with the Market Lamb show, followed by the Market Goat show. These will be judged by Brent Hoover. Saturday, January 19, the Market Swine show gets underway at 8:30 am, followed by the Market Steer show at 11 am, judged by John Osburne, Vocational Ag teacher in Menard. Showmanship judge is Jett Mason, Vocational Ag teacher in Stamford.

The Buyer's appreciation barbecue will be served at 12 noon. Following the barbecue, the premium sale will be held at 2 pm to honor the prize winning animals and exhibitors.

Persons wishing to donate to the Coke County Livestock Show can contact either the County Extension office in the courthouse or one of the

Coke County Junior Livestock Show



January 18-19, 2013

Sterling Lindsey Memorial Exhibition Hall • Robert Lee

Livestock Association directors which include Shane Kelton, Douglas Roberts, Tom Sawyer, Terry Austin, Michael Cervenka, Riley Coalson, Corby Kelso, Curtis

Knight, Steve Oleksiuk III, Bronte Terry Queen, Jonathan Reeves, Ricky Ross, Ricky Royall, Rick Sanchez, Bob Sheets, Brenda Skinner, Noel Tinkler, and Mark Wright.

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

Holiday Closings

The Coke County Courthouse and Robert Lee City Hall will be closed Monday, January 21, 2013, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

In addition to both county banks, the *Observer/Enterprise* office will also be closed on that day.

CCRTA meeting slated for Monday

The Coke County Retired Teachers Association will meet Monday, January 21, 2013. The noon luncheon meeting will be held at First Baptist Church in

Free Workshop slated set for February 2

A free Health and Wellness workshop will be held Saturday, February 2, 2013, at the Bronte Church of Christ. Cindy Bloom-Iosbena will present the clinic.

Cindy is a wellness coach, certified in Nutraceutical Consulting and Weight Management. She has taught Health and Wellness classes for over 28 years and is widely known and respected for her knowledge and experience in the areas of Chronic Fatigue, Fibromyalgia, Digestive Disorders and solutions for many other health disorders. She has done many free workshops at libraries, churches, physician's offices and health food stores in the Central New York area.

Cindy struggled with Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue for over 30 years and, through 25 years of

(Continued on page 2)



Gobble, Gobble! Over thirty wild turkeys visited Mountain Creek Golf Course Tuesday afternoon, January 15, 2013. Fortunately because of the cold temperatures, they did not have to share it with any golfers.

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Joy to the World! Bronte Elementary School students and teachers visited Bronte Health & Rehab Center during the Christmas holidays to sing carols and pass out Christmas crafts to the residents. Both the residents and the staff enjoyed the performance and are already looking forward to next year.

County Quilters Update

The County Quilters enjoyed taking a class on appliqué given by Agene Elben of the Quilters Guild from San Angelo. The class helped them to gain knowledge of hand and machine appliqué to pass along at a later date to the people of the county.

Plans are being made to have a beginner crochet class and information will be made available when possible.

The quilting group from Blackwell is making plans to meet with the County Quilters to exchange knowledge and plan community projects.

Youth classes are also slated to start in February for beginners to help them learn to sew.

For more information, please contact Joann at 473-1306 or Iris at 453-2493.

... Workshop

(Continued from page 1) research in natural health and medical journal articles, successfully found her way out of both illnesses. She no longer suffers any symptoms.

In her free workshops, Cindy shares her own personal testimony, medical research and seven natural health principles that enable the human body to regain homeostasis or "balance". This provides the optimal atmosphere for the reduction and even elimination of many inflammatory conditions, autoimmune diseases and fatigue. The information has proven to be very helpful to people with many other health issues, such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, body pain, trouble sleeping, sinus issues, arthritis, osteoporosis, etc.

She maintains 4 active piano studios in Central New York, performs piano recitals regularly in the Syracuse area, and is the mother of 4 grown children, ages 28, 25, and 21 year old twins. She resides in Solvay, New York, and is currently training for the Irongirl Triathlon 2013.

**To advertise,
 call
 453-2433.**

Rehab Telethon set for this weekend

Coke County residents have an opportunity between now and midnight on January 19 to help West Texas Rehabilitation Center by making a gift to Rehab 2013, the Center's 43rd annual Telethon.

Volunteer Ava Lou Davis is spearheading local solicitation efforts in Robert Lee and the surrounding area and is conducting an advanced mail campaign as well as working the phones asking businesses and individuals to make donations to the Rehab Center.

"We hope our families and friends will ring the phones during the Telethon," said Ms. Davis, "because Rehab makes a difference in the lives of many area residents and this is a way we can all do our part."

The telethon will be carried by 10 state-wide television stations, including KLST in San Angelo and KTAB in Abilene. The show also will be streaming live at www.WestTexasRehab.org.

Popular country star Aaron Watson and rising newcomer Jana Kramer will be joined on stage at the Abilene Civic Center by host Charlie Chase of the Nashville network as well as Texas legend Red Steagall and the Boys in the Bunkhouse, Bill and Susan

Hayes, Brad Maule and Twyla Foreman.

Suddenlink Communications is the official sponsor of the five-hour telecast and First Financial is on board as the new toteboard sponsor. NTS Communications provides support for the auction of merchandise and services and Elegante Suites of Abilene serves as the host hotel.

In addition to entertainment, the live production showcases the services of the Rehab Center which annually provides care daily to more than 500 children and adults with disabilities and communication disorders at facilities in Abilene, San Angelo and Ozona.

Also, Rehab 2013's auction will include approximately 350 items donated by businesses and individuals ranging from agricultural products and home improvement items to collectibles and sports/travel packages. Interested persons may bid online at www.WestTexasRehab.org beginning right after Christmas or by phone

on January 19.

"The telethon is a critical fundraiser for the Rehab Center because we count on it to launch the New Year in a good position to meet the needs of those we'll serve in the next 12 months," said

WTRC President Woody Gilliland. "That's why we're so grateful to local volunteers staffing phone banks ... why every advance gift and every pledge called in during the show are so deeply appreciated."

**Area Churches
 Invite You to Worship**

Bronte

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

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

Bro. Corey Cornutt, Pastor
 Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,
 10:55 am Worship,
 5 pm Worship

6 pm Youth

Wednesday 7 pm Prayer Meeting

First United Methodist Church
 Corner of Washington & Holmes
 Bronte
 (325) 473-3281

Rev. Everette Boyce, Pastor
 Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship

Forgiven Ministries
 117 W. Main, Bronte

Russ Frasier, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am

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

Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor
 Sun. 5 pm

Coke County

Pecan Baptist
 PO Box 542 • 12 miles West of
 Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy
 (325) 453-2065, Bill Hood, Minister
www.pecanbaptist.org

Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship

United Christians Fellowship
 Wildcat Marina • West of Robert Lee
 (325) 453-2468

Ed Zimmerman, Leader
 Sunday 10 am, Worship

Robert Lee
Emmanuel Pentecostal
 PO Box 683 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy
 Robert Lee • (325) 453-2360

Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

First United Methodist Church

PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne
 Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417

Cyndi Weidner, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am Sunday School
 11 am Worship

5:00 pm Choir Practice

Iglesia Bautista Bethel
 101 Houston • Robert Lee
 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

Jordan Arnold, Preacher
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 6 pm, Worship

Wed. 6 pm, Worship

Northside Church of Christ
 PO Box 508

9th & Chadbourne • Robert Lee
 (325) 453-2685, (806) 543-2118 or
 (325) 473-1053

Services: Sun. 10 am

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
 601 W. 10th, Robert Lee
 (325) 365-2687

Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor
 Sat. 6 pm

Robert Lee Baptist Church
 PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th
 (325) 453-2724

Danny White, Pastor
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship

Wed. 7 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. 6 pm, Bible Study

Tennyson

Tennyson Baptist Church
 Hwy 277 • Tennyson
 (325) 473-2040

Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
 11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship
 Wed. 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting

Hayrick Lodge Cemetery Association initiates improvements

The Hayrick Lodge Cemetery Association which oversees the care of the Robert Lee Cemetery is in the process of constructing a small, covered structure near the flagpole at the front entrance of the cemetery. This structure will house a cemetery directory and an aerial map showing the different sections of the cemetery. The directory will assist friends, relatives and out of the area visitors in locating individual graves.

The association members are increasingly concerned that there are a growing number of graves which are not identified by permanent markers. Permanent headstones or other markers are required by association bylaws. Some of the locations are recent, and other locations are much older. Families are encouraged to place permanent markers on these graves before identity is lost. Markers can be purchased, starting at \$150. Each marker should include the name of the person and dates.

For more information, please contact George Grim at (325) 453-9902.

Angelo State University awards degrees to local students

Angelo State University conferred 448 undergraduate and graduate degrees upon 448 graduates during 2012 fall commencement exercises December 15, in San Angelo.

Among the graduates were Estephanie J. Flores of Bronte, Associate of Applied Science, and Robert L. Raney of Robert Lee, Bachelor of Science.

Daddy-Daughter Date Night set for February 9

The 4th annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night, "Wild About You", will be held Saturday, February 9, 2013, from 5 to 8 pm at the Robert Lee Rec Hall.

This event offers dads, step-dads, granddads, big brothers, uncles, cousins, or that special friend the opportunity to let their little girl know how special they are.

This evening is for girls in Pre-K through 6th grade. There will be light appetizers, music and a complimentary 5x7 photo of the couple. Austin Crawley Photography will be there to take pictures. A group photo and other photo packages will be available for purchase. The girls may bring their own camera to capture special moments of the evening. B's Blossoms 'n' Bloom will be offering a special on corsages and boutonniere in conjunction with the dance. Details

County Rainfall Totals				
	July	August	September	Total/Year
Dee & Dessie Kendall • Edith Area				
2011	0.00	2.05	1.35	4.09
2012	4.30	0.50	12.40	30.20
Bobby and Jeffie Roberts • Valley View Area				
2011	0.02	4.33	0.45	6.90
2012	1.39	1.07	8.90	24.19
Fran Sonnenberg • 3 miles E. of Bronte				
2011	0.00	1.47	0.54	3.70
2012	0.54	1.96	7.85	23.81
Paul Sheffler • 7 Mile Hill				
2011	0.00	2.36	0.36	4.81
2012	2.44	2.06	6.42	24.79
Charles & Dorris Sonnenberg • Bronte Area				
2011	0.00	1.48	0.74	4.42
2012	0.69	1.75	8.53	25.08
Wayne & Melinda McCutchen • 3 miles N. of Bronte				
2011	0.00	1.15	0.78	3.79
2012	1.36	2.03	8.73	23.40
Wellborn Ranch • 12 miles W. of Robert Lee				
2011	0.00	1.00	1.40	3.45
2012	1.50	1.40	10.40	25.00

will be sent home on the photo packages and flower special being offered.

Tickets go on sale January 21 and may be purchased in advance until February 7. Tickets will be available at DJ's Merle Norman in Robert Lee and in Bronte at Hometown Hardware and the General Store. Tickets purchased at the door will cost more. For more information, call or text Katie Drennan (473-0112) or Angel Cervenka (456-3966).

Applications for Conservation Programs being accepted

Applications for funding opportunities with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) are currently being accepted at all NRCS offices across Texas.

NRCS in Texas has

received its initial allocation of EQIP funding for 2013 and will begin ranking and obligating EQIP contracts after February 15. All agriculture producers interested in submitting an EQIP contract application for 2013 should do so before this ranking deadline.

EQIP is a voluntary, continuous sign-up program that allows landowners or operators to apply for financial and technical assistance for the application of specific conservation practices; but the deadline for the first 2013 funding is February 15, 2013. Contracts are offered periodically depending on budgetary allocations. Applications made after the deadline will be considered in the next funding cycle. Higher priority will be given to those applications that address national, state and local priorities and provide

County Rainfall Totals				
	October	November	December	Total for Year
Dee & Dessie Kendall • Edith Area				
2011	4.30	0.30	0.90	9.59
2012	0.70	0.00	0.00	30.90
Bobby and Jeffie Roberts • Valley View Area				
2011	3.67	0.37	1.45	12.39
2012	0.13	0.01	0.00	24.33
Fran Sonnenberg • 3 miles E. of Bronte				
2011	3.00	0.35	1.30	8.35
2012	0.00	0.00	0.05	23.86
Paul Sheffler • 7 Mile Hill				
2011	3.28	0.39	1.54	10.02
2012	0.07	0.00	0.12	24.98
Charles & Dorris Sonnenberg • Bronte Area				
2011	3.25	0.64	1.47	9.78
2012	0.05	0.00	0.18	25.31
Wayne & Melinda McCutchen • 3 miles N. of Bronte				
2011	2.56	0.36	1.20	7.91
2012	0.05	0.00	0.06	23.51
Wellborn Ranch • 12 miles W. of Robert Lee				
2011	3.15	0.20	1.75	8.55
2012	0.40	0.20	0.15	25.75

higher cost efficiency.

NRCS encourages any person interested in participating in their programs to contact their local field office, usually located at the county seat.

EQIP offers technical and financial help to install or implement structural, vegetative, and management practices that can benefit the soil, water, air, plants, livestock, and wildlife. Each county in the state is funded yearly to assist producers financially with these land management practices.

Last year, NRCS in Texas funded over 4,000 EQIP contracts with \$76 million to accomplish conservation practices such as irrigation efficiency, minimum

tillage, brush management and more on 2.1 million acres across the entire state. In addition to helping our environment, Farm Bill conservation program funds support rural communities. In Texas, it is estimated that each dollar of NRCS and private matching expenditures on NRCS conservation programs generates an additional \$2.54 in sales of goods and services.

For more information, including eligibility requirements, call the USDA Service Center office serving the county where your land is located. Service center locations and program information can be found on the Texas NRCS Web site at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov.

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**HOLIDAY
CLOSING NOTICE**

*All facilities of this bank will
will be closed
Monday, January 21.*
In Observance Of



**Martin
Luther
King, Jr.**

Day

Please plan your banking requirements during regular banking hours to avoid any inconvenience.

Robert Lee State Bank

Member FDIC
453-2545
Robert Lee, TX

ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS



Stomper in Florida! Robert Lee's own "Stomper" (aka Mason Hill) was one of the talented mascots flown to Florida to perform at the Capital One Bowl Game held during the holidays.

Steers named to All State Football teams

RLHS Junior Will Howard was named as a Wide Receiver on the 1st Team All-State Offense. He was joined by Justin Gartman at Spreadback. Justin is a senior at RLHS.

RLHS Senior Zach Skinner was named as a Defensive Lineman to the 2nd Team All-State Defense.

January is School Board Recognition Month

Texans benefit every day from the tireless work and countless hours contributed by a group of more than 7,300 men and women in communities across the state. These local volunteers are elected by their constituents and receive no compensation for their work as public servants. These men and women are the school board members of Texas.

January is School Board Recognition Month and Robert Lee ISD will take this opportunity to show their appreciation to these local leaders for devoting time to support public education and serve our local schools.

The board members serving Robert Lee ISD are Wes Washam, Jeffie Roberts, Brandi Brosh, Beverly Sinclair, Tracy Allen, Tom Sawyer, Jr., and Irma Torres.

Steers split contests

The Robert Lee Steers faced the Garden City Bearkats at home on Tuesday, January 8, 2012, and fell to the visitors 50-52.

Statistics include: Justin Gartman 4 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists and 1 steal; Zachary Sanchez 5 points, 1 rebound, and 2 steals; Will Howard 17 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 steals; Efrain Olguin 5 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, and 4 steals; Sean Hildebrand 1 rebound and 1 assist; Zach Skinner 11 points, 9 rebounds, 3 assists, and 1 steal; James Roberts 4 points and 1 rebound; and Jake Jackson 4 points, 3 rebounds and 1 assist.

On Friday, January 11, the Steers traveled to Veribest and defeated the Falcons 53-45.

Statistics include: Justin Gartman 21 points, 8 rebounds, 3 assists and 5 steals; Zachary Sanchez 6 rebounds and 1 steal; Will Howard 12 points and 6 rebounds; Efrain Olguin 5 points, 9 rebounds and 2 steals; Sean Hildebrand 1 point, 3 rebounds and 1 steal; Blake Smith 1 steal; Zach Skinner 9 points, 8 rebounds and 2 assists; and Jake Jackson 5 points and 9 rebounds.

Their overall record is now 10-5 and 4-1 in District.

Lady Steers defeated by Garden City

The Robert Lee Lady Steers fell to Garden City 24-54.

Statistics include: Brady Clawson 9 points and 5 rebounds; Pammy Meeks 6 points; Mikayla Ramon 6 points, 5 rebounds and 3 steals; Taylor Benton 3 points and 4 rebounds; and Jordan Gartman 5 assists and 3 steals.

Lady Steers defeat Veribest

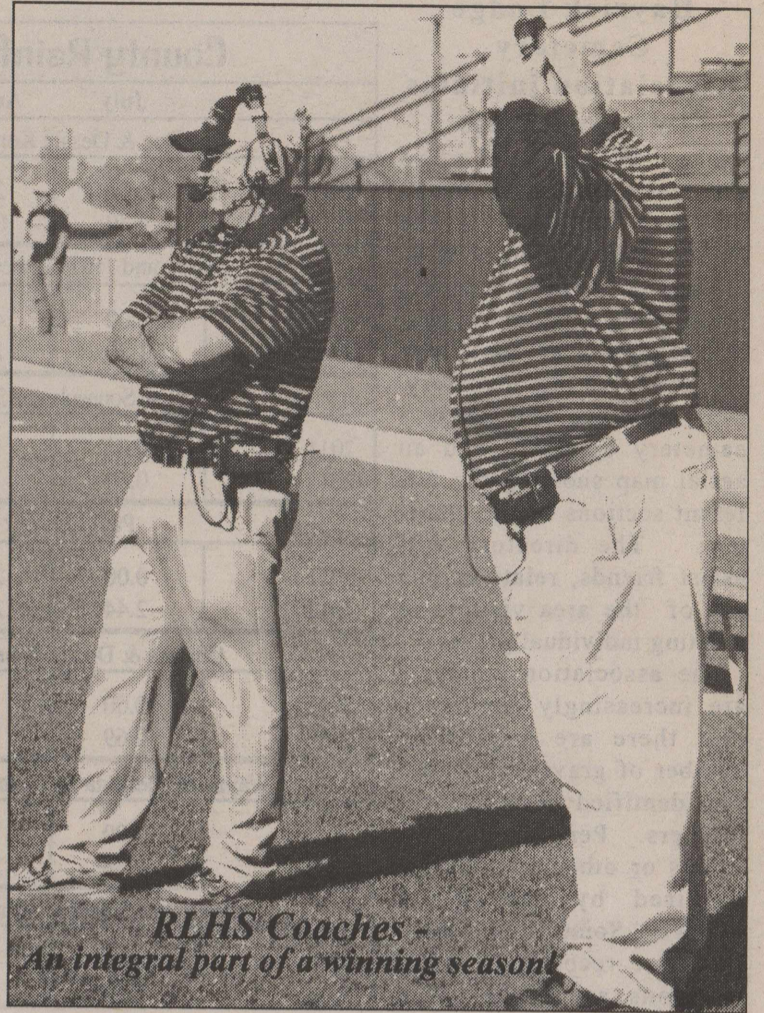
The Robert Lee Lady Steers defeated the Lady Falcons of Veribest 44-25.

Statistics include: Bianca Huapilla 14 points and 8 rebounds; Jordan Gartman 11 points and 4 assists; Pammy Meeks 8 points and 11 rebounds; Mikayla Ramon 6 points, 3 assists and 4 steals; Brady Clawson 3 points and 14 rebounds; Jesse Sheets 2 points; Taylor Benton 9 rebounds; and Lubbock Roe 3 steal.

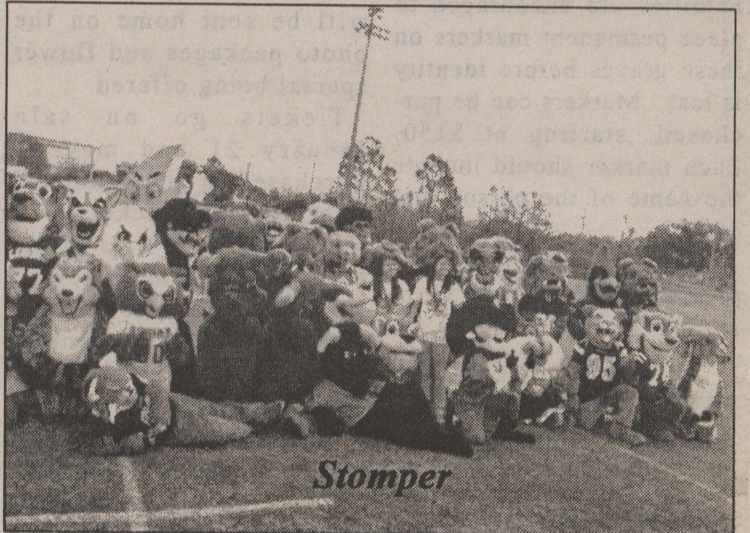
The Lady Steers have an overall record of 9-10 and 4-3 in District.

JV Steers add 2 more to win column

The Robert Lee JV Steers hosted Garden City on January 8 and defeated the visitors 43-40.



RLHS Coaches - An integral part of a winning season!



Stomper

Scoring for Robert Lee were Shelby Davis 14, Everett Wilson 8, Michael Curry 7, Bruce Buddin 7, Mychael Tijerina 4, and JR Aldridge 3.

On Friday, January 11, the JV Steers defeated the Falcons 68-1 on the road.

Scoring for Robert Lee were Shelby Davis 18, Bruce Buddin 16, Michael Curry 10, Mychael Tijerina 9, Everett Wilson 7, JR Aldridge 6, and Tristen Hildebrand 2.

Their record stands at 5-0.

Dogie, Lady Dogie results posted

The Robert Lee Junior High Lady Dogies "A" team trav-

eled to Sterling City January 10 and fell to the Lady Eagles 28-29.

Scoring for the Lady Dogies were Anna Huapilla 5, Bailey Grimes 2, Margo Mendoza 2, Chesney Minjarez 4, Jessie Wheat 1, Mariah Munoz 13, and Kiara Burns 1.

The Lady Dogies "A" Team played in the Bronte "A" Tournament on January 12. In the first round, the Lady Dogies lost to Menard 15-22.

Scoring for Robert Lee were Anna Huapilla 4, Bailey Grimes 2, Chesney Minjarez 3, Kiara Burns 2, and Mariah Munoz 4.

Scoring for Robert Lee were Anna Huapilla 4, Bailey Grimes 2, Chesney Minjarez 3, Kiara Burns 2, and Mariah Munoz 4.

(Continued on Page 15)

School Menu

Breakfast

Monday, January 21

Breakfast pizza or cereal, juice, milk

Tuesday, January 22

Biscuit & sausage or cereal, juice, milk

Wednesday, January 23

Pancake on stick or cereal, juice, milk

Thursday, January 24

Burrito or cereal, juice, milk

Friday, January 25

Cinnamon roll or cereal, juice, milk

Lunch

Monday, January 21

Chicken parmesan, green beans, salad, fresh apple slices, breadstick, milk

Tuesday, January 22

Baked chicken, rice, baby carrots, steamed broccoli, snowball salad, milk

Wednesday, January 23

Tex-mex stack, Spanish rice, refried beans, salad, apple, salsa, milk

Thursday, January 24

Stuffed BBQ potato, cheese, baby carrots, crackers, fresh fruit, fruit bar, milk

Friday, January 25

Hamburger, salad, corn, tator tots, western beans, diced pears, milk

Russell Davis
Agent

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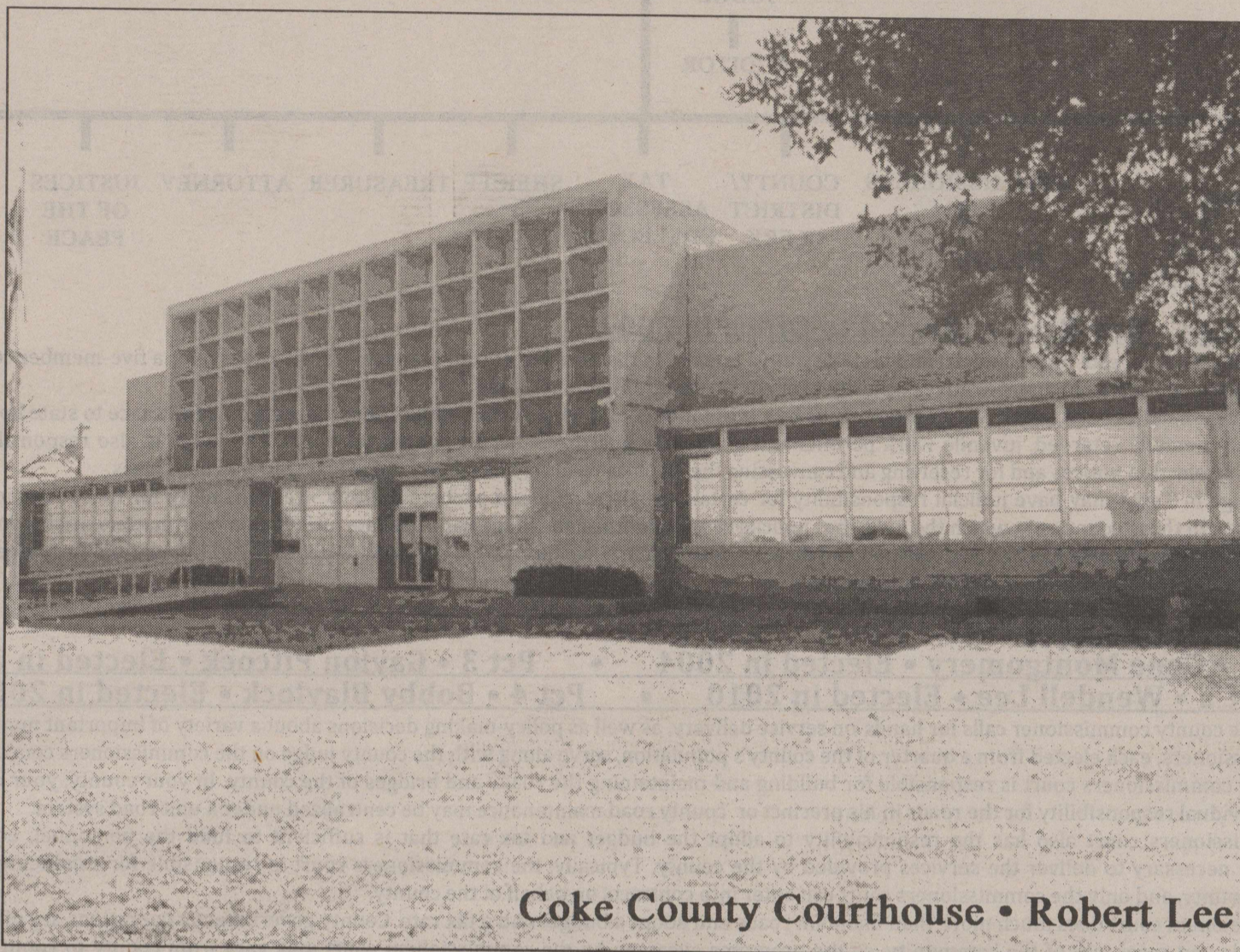
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Special Government Section



Coke County Courthouse • Robert Lee

Coke County covers 928 square miles on the Edwards Plateau in west central Texas. The county was founded in 1889 and named for Richard Coke, the 15th governor of Texas. As of the 2010 census, its population was 3,320.

Several months ago, I posted the following statement on several pages frequented by Coke County residents on Facebook.

CITIZENS OF COKE COUNTY:

I need your input. For the last several weeks, I've been researching how our tax dollars are spent in Coke County and in other surrounding counties of similar size and population. I honestly didn't know how our tax money was distributed. After I looked at Coke County, I began to look at the other county budgets to see if they're in the same boat and how they are handling it. After I began to assimilate the research into comparison tables, I went to my most trusted advisors to get their thoughts.

They agreed that the research showed a number of astounding things and inconsistencies. However, they asked me why I was bothering. They said the majority of people these days didn't really care about anything that didn't affect them on a close, personal level. Is this true?

My plan was to combine all of my research into a magazine type special section. I was not going to hit our businesses up to support this section. I was going to fund the printing and distribution of this project.

Please let me know what you think. If the majority of responses to this are positive, I'll move forward. If the responses are negative or non-existent, I'll stop and figure my advisors are right. Please take the time to read this, share it and respond.

Thank you.

I was astonished by the number of positive comments urging me to move forward with this. However as you can see, I have changed it from a magazine-style insert to a middle section pull-out.

If you're a long-time reader of *The Observer/Enterprise*, you may already know my political leanings. My husband describes me of being "just right of Attila the Hun". I describe myself as a common sense constitutional conservative who believes in limited government (especially on the federal

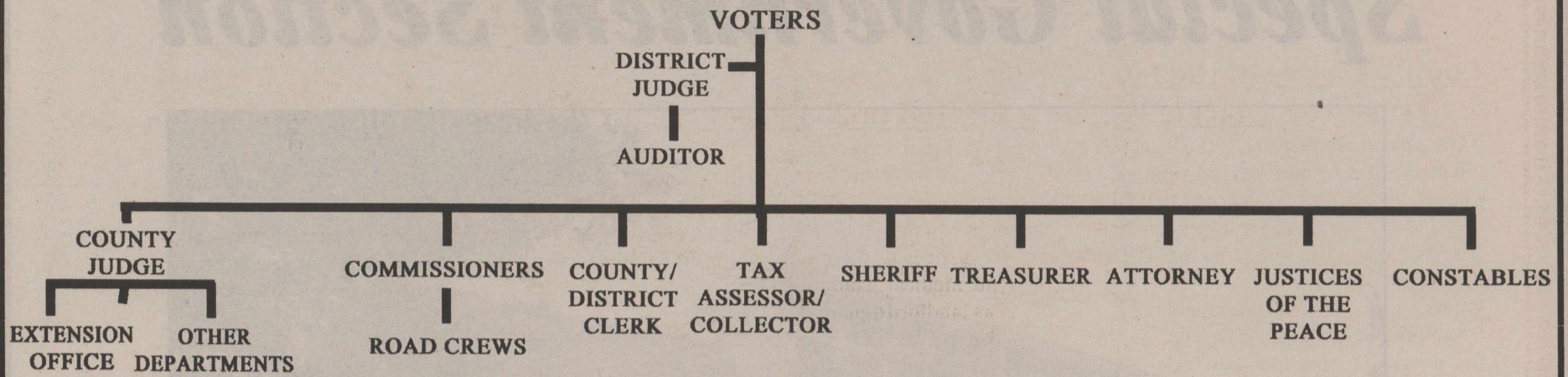
level) and low taxes. I understand fiduciary responsibility, first to others as a realtor for several years and now to myself as a business owner. I feel that responsibility should be taken very seriously by those tasked with spending the people's money – tax dollars. Simply put, I would hope these people would operate in the most cost effective manner possible. On the national level, government spending has been out of control for close to 100 years. It's a little better at the state level – if that state is Texas. What this section will focus on is more local – county government.

A few people accused me of having a personal agenda. To be perfectly honest, my agenda in the beginning was to highlight the low salaries for the law enforcement professionals employed by the Sheriff's Office. But by the end of the first day of research, I realized that it wasn't just members of the Sheriff's Office that were under compensated. Every county employee was in the same shape, with the exception of the County Judge and the County Attorney who receive state supplements of \$15,000 and \$20,833 per year respectively in addition to their county salaries.

Instead of compiling the research into an article that could be considered biased, I will include tables with information taken from budgets of Coke County and several counties in our area with similar demographics. Following these tables will be a short summary with a few points to ponder. Since that first post on Facebook, I've been sent several articles, etc., that provide information on other situations we are facing. Even though they are not specific to county government, I feel they will be of interest to O/E readers. I have not included the cities of Robert Lee and Bronte, nor the hospital and water districts located within our counties in this section. Hopefully, they will be included in a future section.

Finally, I hope this section will provide information which will spur all residents of Coke County to take a greater interest in how each tax dollar is spent and what regulations are being imposed.

Coke County Officials



County Judge • Roy Blair • Elected to Office in 2002

The Texas Constitution vests broad judicial and administrative powers in the position of county judge, who presides over a five-member commissioners court, which has budgetary and administrative authority over county government operations.

The county judge handles such widely varying matters as hearings for beer and wine license applications, hearing on admittance to state hospitals for the mentally ill and mentally retarded, juvenile work permits and temporary guardianships for special purposes. The judge is also responsible for calling elections, posting election notices and for receiving and canvassing the election returns. The county judge may perform marriages.

A county judge in Texas may have judicial responsibility for certain criminal, civil and probate matters - responsibility for these functions vary from county to county. In those counties in which the judge has judicial responsibilities, the judge has appellate jurisdiction over matters arising from the justice courts. The county judge is also head of civil defense and disaster relief, county welfare and in counties under 225,000 population, the judge prepares the county budget along with the county auditor or county clerk.

County Commissioners

Pct 1 • Gene Montgomery • Elected in 2004 • Pct 3 • Gaylon Pitcock • Elected in 2000
Pct 2 • Wendell Lee • Elected in 2010 • Pct 4 • Bobby Blaylock • Elected in 2006

The job of the county commissioner calls for hands-on service delivery, as well as policy-making decisions about a variety of important matters.

Four commissioners, each elected from a quarter of the county's population, serve along with the county judge on the commissioners court. Many people know that the commissioners court is responsible for building and maintaining the roads and bridges of the county. In your county, your commissioner may have individual responsibility for the roads in his precinct or county road maintenance may be centralized under a unit road system.

The commissioners court also has the responsibility to adopt the budget and tax rate that is sufficient to fund the personnel, equipment and infrastructure necessary to deliver the services provided by the county. Typically, the commissioners court is responsible for conducting business on behalf of the county, and only the commissioners court can enter into contracts on behalf of the county.

The commissioners court does much more than maintain roads and adopt a budget and a tax rate. County government's operations are often tailored to meet the needs and resources of the community, so the programs overseen by the commissioners court may vary from county to county. In a typical county, the commissioners court also establish precinct boundaries for commissioners and justices of the peace, determine the number and type of county employees and their compensation, acquire property for rights of way or other public uses, adopt and enforce subdivision regulations, provides rural ambulance services and subsidizes rural fire protection, and supervises and controls the county courthouse and other county buildings and facilities

As with all elected county officials, the commissioner who serves as an ex officio road commissioner has ultimate authority over the operations of the office, including the authority to hire and fire personnel and direct their daily activities. The county commissioner also has authority to determine how to use all other resources allocated to the office during the budget process.

County/District Clerk • Mary Grim • Elected to Office in 1998

District Clerk

The district clerk has a duty to keep the records of the district court safe and properly arranged. The district clerk must, among other things record the acts and proceedings of the district court, enter all judgments of the court under the direction of the judge, record all executions issued and the returns issued on the executions, administer child support payments, administer trust accounts for minors ordered by the courts keep an index of the parties to all suits filed in the court, and make reference to any judgment made in the case and keep an account of all funds collected by the office, including fines and fees, and determine the amount due to citizens who serve on a jury in district court.

County Clerk

The county clerk administers all the county and state elections unless the commissioners court has transferred those duties to the tax assessor-collector or a county election administrator. The county clerk may contract with local political subdivisions to conduct their elections. The county clerk conducts the primary early voting and, at the party's request, may contract to conduct the general primary and the runoff primary elections. The county clerk also serves as clerk of both the county court and the commissioners court, and it is the clerk that maintains the official records of both the county court and the commissioners court. As clerk of the county court, the county clerk also receives and is responsible for money paid in fines and fees and for the payment of juror fees.

The county clerk also is the custodian of a variety of other important public records, such as deeds and other instruments and birth and death certificates. The county clerk also issues marriage licenses.

In Texas counties with a population of less than 8,000, unless there has been a special election, the county clerk also serves as the district clerk, assuming all constitutional and statutory duties of the district clerk, along with those of county clerk.

As with all elected county officials, both the county clerk and the district clerk have ultimate authority over the operations of the office, including the authority to hire and fire personnel and direct their daily activities. Both the county clerk and district clerk also have authority to determine how to use all other resources allocated to the office during the budget process.

County Tax Assessor/Collector • Josie Dean • Appointed November 2005 • Elected to Office in 2006

The major tax duty of the assessor-collector, is the assessment (calculation) of taxes on each property in the county and collection of that tax, but the tax assessor-collector does not appraise property. That function is performed by the Appraisal District, which is not a part of county government. As an agent of the Texas Department of Transportation, the assessor-collector also is responsible for the registration and licensing of motor vehicles owned by residents of the county.

In most Texas counties, the tax assessor-collector is the voter registrar. In a few counties, the county clerk or an elections administrator provide this function. The county tax office voter registration responsibilities include accepting applications for voter registration, issuing voter certificates, maintaining voter registration lists, verifying petitions for local option elections and submitting required reports to the Secretary of State's Office.

The county tax assessor-collector is also responsible for the collections of special fees imposed by the county and state on coin-operated vending machines, alcoholic beverage permits and registration and titling boats.

As with all elected county officials, the tax assessor-collector has ultimate authority over the operations of the office, including the authority to hire and fire personnel and direct their daily activities. The tax assessor-collector also has authority to determine how to use all other resources allocated to the office during the budget process.

County Sheriff • Wayne McCutchen • Elected to Office in 2008

The sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer in the county and has a range of duties that include criminal investigations, traffic enforcement, and operation of the jail, including the safekeeping of inmates and operation of the jail commissary. The sheriff also provides security for the courthouse, including the county and district courts, assists with service of subpoena and other process and accepts bail for prisoners in his custody. In a county without a Bail Bond Board, the Sheriff sets bail bond policy for the county. Finally, the sheriff may conduct sales of forfeited property, property being sold at auction for failure to pay property taxes and property sold to satisfy judgments in civil cases.

As with all elected county officials, the sheriff has ultimate authority over the operations of the office, including the authority to hire and fire personnel and direct their daily activities. The sheriff also has authority to determine how to use all other resources allocated to the office during the budget process.

More will be discussed regarding the office, duties, and powers of sheriffs later in this special section.

Coke County Officials

County Justice of the Peace

Precinct 1 • Jackie Walker • Elected in 2010 • Precinct 2 • Grady Coulter • Elected in 2004

The justice of the peace is the legal jurisdiction closest to the average citizen.

Justices of the Peace hear misdemeanor cases punishable by fine only. The justice court also has authority to hear most civil cases in which the amount in controversy does not exceed \$10,000.

The justice of the peace also performs the functions of a magistrate and conducts inquests. In addition, a justice of the peace may issue a variety of civil process, as well as warrants for search and arrest. Justices of the peace also conduct preliminary hearings, administer oaths, perform marriages and serve as a coroner in counties where there is no medical examiner. They can also deal with matters concerning foreclosure of mortgages and enforcement of liens on personal property, as well as landlord-tenant disputes.

As with all elected county officials, the justice of the peace has ultimate authority over the operations of the office, including the authority to hire and fire personnel and direct their daily activities. The justice of the peace also has authority to determine how to use all other resources allocated to the office during the budget process.

County Constable

Precinct 1 • Marshall Millican • Elected in 2008 • Precinct 2 • Marty Boyd • Elected in 2010

Constables are certified peace officers and, along with their deputies, have all the enforcement powers of any other peace officers and often participate actively in criminal investigations. In many communities, constables focus on truancy cases. Not only does a constable perform traditional law enforcement functions, the constable also serves as bailiff for the justice courts, serves subpoenas and other process and plays an important role in making sure the judgments rendered in civil cases are satisfied. The constable also has duties related to keeping accounts of the financial transactions of the office and is responsible for property seized or money collected by court order.

As with all elected county officials, the constable has ultimate authority over the operations of the office, including the authority to hire and fire personnel and direct their daily activities. The constable also has authority to determine how to use all other resources allocated to the office during the budget process.

Texas Constitution • Article 5 Section 18

(h) The commissioners court of a county may declare the office of constable in a precinct dormant if at least seven consecutive years have passed since the end of the term of the person who was last elected or appointed to the office and during that period of time no person was elected to fill that office, or during that period a person was elected to that office, but the person failed to meet the qualifications of that office or failed to assume the duties of that office. If an office of constable is declared dormant, the office may not be filled by election or appointment and the previous officeholder does not continue to hold the office under Subsection (a) of this section or Section 17, Article XVI, of this constitution. The records of an office of constable declared dormant are transferred to the county clerk of the county. The commissioners court may reinstate an office of constable declared dormant by vote of the commissioners court or by calling an election in the precinct to reinstate the office. The commissioners court shall call an election to reinstate the office if the commissioners court receives a petition signed by at least 10 percent of the qualified voters of the precinct. If an election is called under this subsection, the commissioners court shall order the ballot for the election to be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "Reinstating the office of Constable of Precinct No. ___ that was previously declared dormant." The office of constable is reinstated if a majority of the voters of the precinct voting on the question at the election approve the reinstatement.

THE SHERIFF HAS NO CONTROL OF OR AUTHORITY OVER ELECTED CONSTABLES.

County Treasurer • Hal Spain • Elected to Office in 2010

The county treasurer, as the chief custodian of all county funds, including the general fund and special funds, such as those dedicated to a certain purpose and those under the control of an elected official other than the commissioners court. The treasurer has a duty to receive all money received by the county from any source and place it in the appropriate county depository. All county money received by any official must be delivered promptly to the county treasurer for proper handling.

The county treasurer is also responsible for disbursing county funds as directed by the commissioners court consistently with the law. The county treasurer often acts as the chief liaison between the county and all depository banks. In this capacity, he or she maintains records of all deposits and withdrawals, and reconciles all bank statements, thus assuring their accuracy and the safety of county funds. The county treasurer, who may be designated as the county's investment officer, is required to submit regular reports to the commissioners court about the county's finances.

As with all elected county officials, the treasurer has ultimate authority over the operations of the office, including the authority to hire and fire personnel and direct their daily activities. The treasurer also has authority to determine how to use all other resources allocated to the office during the budget process.

County Auditor • Sheryl Tavarez • Appointed by District Judge Barbara Walther

The county auditor maintains the integrity of financial administration of county government by overseeing the county's financial record-keeping and assuring that all expenditures comply with the county budget and the law. The county auditor has continuous access to all books and financial records of every elected official and conducts detailed reviews of all county financial operations.

The office of county auditor is not subject to the control of the commissioners court or any other county official, but is appointed by the district judge(s) serving the county. Both the county auditor and commissioners court are required by law to approve claims for disbursement of county funds. The integrity of county financial administration is entrusted to a dual control system of "checks and balances."

As with the elected county officials, the county auditor has ultimate authority over the operations of the office, including the authority to hire and fire personnel and direct their daily activities. The auditor also has authority to determine how to use all other resources allocated to the office during the budget process.

When the Texas Constitution originated, there was no mention of County Auditors. However in 1905, the county auditor position was enacted by statute and not an amendment to the Constitution. At that time, appointment as auditor was a joint effort of the county judge and the district judge. In 1917, district judges were given the sole responsibility for these appointments. According to previous county officials, a proposed mandate went out some years later from state government which would require all counties to have an auditor. The Commissioners Court in Coke County at that time immediately took action and the first auditor was appointed in Coke County. However, when the law was enacted, counties with populations under 10,200 were not required to have an auditor. Coke County was left with an auditor they weren't required to have, but could not remove. Only the District Judge could make the change. Current District Judge Barbara Walther has refused to discontinue this position. The laws pertaining to this office are below.

Sec. 84.002. APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY AUDITOR. (a) In a county with a population of 10,200 or more, the district judges shall appoint a county auditor.

(b) In a county with a population of less than 10,200:

- (1) the district judges may appoint a county auditor if the judges determine that the county's financial circumstances warrant the appointment; and
- (2) the district judges shall appoint a county auditor if:

(A) the commissioners court finds that a county auditor is necessary to carry out county business and enters an order in its minutes stating the reason for this finding;

(B) the order is certified to the district judges; and

(C) the district judges find the reason stated by the commissioners court to be good and sufficient.

Sec. 84.009. REMOVAL. (a) A county auditor may be removed from office and a successor appointed if, after due investigation by the district judges who appointed the auditor, it is proven that the auditor:

- (1) has committed official misconduct; or
- (2) is incompetent to faithfully discharge the duties of the office of county auditor.

(b) The district judges who appointed a county auditor under Section 84.002(b)(2) or Section 84.008 may discontinue the services of the auditor after the expiration of one year after the date of the appointment if it is clearly shown that the auditor is not necessary and the auditor's services are not commensurate with the auditor's salary.

County Comparisons

	Coke	Runnels	Sterling	Nolan	Menard	Concho	Glasscock	Irion
Auditor Salary	\$26,541	\$43,260		\$48,678				
Clerk's Salary	\$22,098	\$25,634(2)		\$31,866 (2)				
Total Office Budget	\$78,680	\$147,026		\$170,798				
Clerk	\$26,541	\$36,886	\$46,300	\$42,344	\$31,784	\$33,766	\$46,316	\$37,356
Deputy's Salary	\$22,098 (2)	\$30,366(?)	\$32,600 (1.5)	\$31,245(3.5)	\$10,081	\$24,956 (2)	\$38,839 (1.5)	\$29,366 (2)
Total Office Budget	\$135,269	\$200,266	\$136,074	\$239,765	\$70,673	\$145,248	\$225,475	\$151,220
Tax Assessor/Collector	\$26,541	\$36,886	\$46,300	\$42,344	\$26,250	\$19,697	\$46,316	\$37,356
Clerk's Salary	\$22,098 (2)	\$25,159 (4)	\$19,350	\$31,245(3)	\$3,800	\$24,096 (2)	\$38,839	\$28,704(2)
Total Office Budget	\$136,458	\$253,051	\$101,254	\$203,876	\$47,365	\$112,146	\$166,525	\$144,165
Justice of the Peace								
Precinct 1	\$19,992	\$31,147	\$46,300	\$42,344	\$31,006	33,766	\$46,316	\$37,356
Precinct 2	\$20,600	\$31,147						
Clerk's Salary		\$10,400 (2)	\$30,000	\$31,245 (2)	\$19,203	\$24,096 (1.5)		
Total Office Budget - 1	\$32,692	\$63,956	\$98,226	\$175,799	\$83,444	\$107,225	\$71,730	\$63,763
Total Office Budget - 2	\$36,687	\$63,956						
County Judge	\$27,327	\$39,041	\$46,300	\$41,444	\$29,326	\$45,020	\$46,316	\$37,356
Clerk's Salary	\$22,098	\$26,586			\$10,081	\$24,096	\$5,000	\$32,801
Total Office Budget	\$95,299	\$126,085	\$80,176	\$170,470	\$52,336	\$103,970	\$95,922	\$117,642
Treasurer	\$26,541	\$36,886	\$46,300	\$41,444	\$33,311	\$33,766	\$46,316	\$37,356
Clerk's Salary		\$26,586		\$10,000	\$500	\$24,096 (1.5)		\$27,518
Total Office Budget	\$53,029	\$110,831	\$64,281	\$77,994	\$55,934	\$122,241	\$74,649	\$99,668
County Attorney	\$26,541	\$36,886	\$46,300	\$44,472	\$30,000	\$43,770	\$4,800	\$37,356
Clerk's Salary	\$13,894	\$26,586		\$28,845		\$1,250		\$28,704
Total Office Budget	\$96,769	\$127,238	\$85,929	\$147,174	\$67,193	\$63,385	\$5,742	NA
Commissioner	\$27,936	\$36,886	\$20,580	\$40,023	\$16,800	\$25,325	\$33,958	\$23,760
Road Hand	\$23,561 (8)	NA	NA	NA	\$30,761 (4)	NA	NA	NA
Road Superintendent			\$41,250					
Total Road/Bridge Budget	\$630,991	\$1,800,000	\$571,816	\$1,797,938	\$347,865	\$614,504	\$2,565,833	\$440,660
Constable								
Precinct 1	\$14,400	\$7,818		\$6,300	\$11,250	\$5,629	\$20,354	
Precinct 2	\$14,400	\$7,818						
Total Office Budget - 1	\$32,719	\$20,521		\$14,125	\$23,403	\$19,835	\$38,786	
Total Office Budget - 2	\$34,266	\$20,521						

The amounts listed as the salaries for the County Judge and the County Attorney do not include supplements from the state. The County Judge receives an additional \$15,000 per year. The County Attorney receives an additional \$20,833 per year.

County	Population	Area in Square Miles	Total Tax Revenue	Sheriff Salary	Lowest Paid Deputy	Highest Paid Deputy	Number of Deputies	Number Police Departments	Population Living in Cities	Population Living Out in County
Coke	3,320	928	\$2,002,223	\$31,972	\$28,430	\$29,672	4	0	NA	NA
Runnels	10,501	1,057	\$5,299,080	\$43,614	\$37,151	\$37,151	5	3	7,973	2,528
Sterling	1,143	923	\$3,120,988	\$46,300	\$38,000	\$41,250	4	0	NA	NA
Nolan	15,216	914	\$7,743,144	\$50,905	\$36,321	\$43,769	9	2	12,271	2,945
Menard	2,264	902	\$1,980,959	\$50,274	\$35,600	\$35,600	6	0	NA	NA
Concho	4,087	994	\$2,278,521	\$41,218	\$32,127	\$34,946	6	1	2,759	1,328
Glasscock	1,226	901	\$7,337,663	\$51,508	\$47,146	\$47,146	3	0	NA	NA
Irion	1,620	1,052	\$3,787,215	\$44,764	\$38,224	\$38,224	3	0	NA	NA

The figures used in these tables were taken from the most recent budget available to our office. We have done our very best to be accurate in this entire section, but errors will happen and we apologize in advance.

County School District Comparisons

	Bronte ISD	Robert Lee ISD
Total Tax Revenue 2011-12	\$3,287,533	\$6,383,154
Total Tax Revenue 2012-13	\$3,096,253	
Superintendent Salary 2011-12	\$104,340	\$85,874
Superintendent Salary 2012-13	\$98,000	
Lowest Paid Teacher 2011-12	\$31,390	\$31,492
Lowest Paid Teacher 2012-13	\$33,795	
Highest Paid Teacher 2011-12	\$47,170	\$47,272
Highest Paid Teacher 2012-13	\$47,170	

What can we take away from all of this information?

Several counties do not have Auditors and Constables like Coke County. The counties who do not have these departments are able to save considerable annual sums.

All counties listed have a County Treasurer. Coke County has both a County Treasurer and a County Auditor. Coke County also contracts and pays for an outside audit each year.

Also, there is quite a range in the amounts of the various counties' road and bridge annual budgets. From what I can gather, there are at least two explanations for this. The first is the number of miles for which each county is responsible for maintaining. The second deals with whether or not the commissioners in a county are administrative or are in charge of the daily activities of the road crews. It appears in the counties where the commissioners are administrative and just paid for attending meetings, etc., and a road superintendent is put in place to run one combined road crew, less tax money is required to operate.

The amount of roads in our county is not likely to change, so the only way of saving money in this area is with a unit road system. That was put forth several years ago, but was voted down by the commissioners whose salaries would have been cut.

What began my consideration of this project were the numerous times when ads were run around the state trying to fill a vacant Sheriff's Deputy position with no qualified applicants resulting. Why would a certified law enforcement professional put his life on the line for almost poverty level pay? My research proved that Coke County Sheriff's Office salaries are not only below the oil-rich counties in our area, but also way under the other small counties in our area.

What surprised me was the fact that most of our elected officials and their employees are also under the other counties salaries. Most of the people filling these positions county-wide are here because they want to be. And for the most part, we are not getting what we pay for. We are getting much better people than we are paying for.

I think I know one reason the salaries are so out-of-line. It is because over the last several decades, commissioners and judges didn't want to anger the voting public by even the smallest tax increase and each year, we were further and further behind.

If you have concerns with law enforcement activities, contact Sheriff Wayne McCutchen. If you have a concern with the Auditor's Office, contact District Judge Barbara Walther at her office in San Angelo. If your concern is regarding budgets, etc., contact a member of the Commissioners Court (Judge Blair and the four Commissioners). Unlike in year's past, where Commissioners were seen as road crew bosses, Commissioners now need to be seen the same as a large corporation's governing board who deal with millions of dollars each year.

When looking at these figures, please keep in mind that county taxes are only a portion of the taxes imposed. Other taxing entities in the county are the school districts, the cities of Bronte and Robert Lee, the hospital districts and the water districts.

Tax Rates

Coke County	.425450	West Coke County Hospital District	.249923
City of Robert Lee	.392149	East Coke County Hospital District	.409447
City of Bronte	.380000	Underground Water District	.007796
Robert Lee ISD	1.460000	Kickapoo Water District	.017600
Bronte ISD	1.040000	FM & FC	.117997

(Farm to Market & Flood Control - Commissioner Funds)

The Coke County Appraisal District is not part of Coke County Government. It is its own entity with its own governing board.

FISCAL YEAR 2013 Salaries For Coke County

Employees

Set By Court

*Includes
Longevity*

OFFICE SALARIES

County Judge *	\$27,927.00
Commissioner, Prec #1	\$28,836.00
Commissioner, Prec #2	\$27,936.00
Commissioner, Prec #3	\$28,656.00
Commissioner, Prec #4	\$28,296.00
County Attorney*	\$27,320.00
Tax Assessor/collector	\$27,080.00
Sheriff	\$32,871.00
County/district Clerk	\$27,440.00
County Treasurer	\$26,540.00

PARK SUPERINTENDENTS & COURTHOUSE CUSTODIAN

Robert Lee Park Supt	\$21,556.00
Bronte Park Sup	\$21,616.00
Courthouse Custodian	\$19,902.00

DEPUTIES AND SECRETARIES

Deputy Sheriff	\$28,430.00
Deputy Sheriff	\$28,610.00
Chief Deputy Sheriff	\$30,302.00
Deputy Sheriff	\$28,790.00
Office Deputy Sheriff	\$22,638.00
Chief Deputy Tax A/c	\$22,338.00
Second Deputy Tax A/c	\$21,461.00
Secretary, Judge	\$22,998.00
Chief Deputy Clerk	\$22,098.00
Second Deputy Clerk	\$13,201.00
Third Deputy	\$ 7,008.00
Auditor's Office	\$22,998.00

JP'S AND CONSTABLES

J P Prec #1	\$19,992.00
J P Prec #2	\$21,140.00
Constable, Prec #1	\$14,760.00
Constable, Prec #2	\$14,880.00

ROAD HANDS

Prec #1	\$23,981.00
Prec #1	\$23,981.00
Prec #2	\$23,981.00
Prec #2	\$23,981.00
Prec #3	\$23,561.00
Prec #3	\$24,461.00
Prec #4	\$24,461.00
Prec #4	\$24,461.00

EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

County Extension Agent	\$15,344.00
Home Economics Agent	\$10,988.00

OTHER SALARIES

County Auditor	\$27,440.00
County Librarian	\$ 9,113.00
Extension Office	\$ 8,693.00
Court Reporter	\$ 3,797.00
Dist Judge Supplement	\$ 485.00
Dist Attorney Supplement	\$ 485.00
Co Attorney Office	\$14,494.00
Dist Judge Administrator	\$ 1,023.00
Dist Judge Bailiff	\$ 300.00
Co-ord Bronte Center	\$ 8,781.00
Coordinator R1 Center	\$ 9,021.00
Bronte Van Driver	\$18,016.00
Robert Lee Van Driver	\$18,016.00

* Does not include state supplemental pay.

County Sheriffs

For years now, I've had articles, CDs, and DVDs sent in regarding the role of sheriff and the power this office holds. With this page, I will try to touch on the commonalities of all the articles being circulated.

The True Role of the Sheriff

By Greg Steussel

Let's start with some background. America was founded as a constitutional republic in which sovereignty is constitutionally divided between the federal government and the states. Our federal government has extremely limited powers set forth by the Constitution. In order to secure the principles of this Constitution, our Founders penned Article VI paragraph 3, which states very clearly:

"...all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by oath or affirmation to support this Constitution ..."

The sheriff is part of the executive branch of government and thus is constitutionally required by way of solemn oath, to uphold, defend, support, and obey the United States Constitution. So just like our President and Representatives, our sheriff's supreme duty and responsibility is to protect and defend the Constitution.

This "defense" should rightly take the form of securing the county from encroachment by the federal government. The sheriff is the supreme law enforcement authority in his county and it is for this reason that the office of sheriff is an elected position. In fact, this is the most important aspect of the sheriff's authority; he is elected by, for, and of the people. He is not appointed, he is not a bureaucrat, he does not report to the town manager or to the city council. He reports directly to the people and is answerable to them and them alone. The role of the sheriff is another checks and balance put in place by our founders to help secure a free nation. The office should serve as another level of protection between the government and the people.

For a real life example of a sheriff fulfilling his proper role in defending liberty, let's go back to 1994. The Brady Bill was passed by Congress and signed in to law by President Clinton. This law, among other things, sought to force all sheriffs in the nation to promote gun control within their own jurisdictions with no funds being allocated for them to do this work. Additionally, The Brady Act even contained a provision to arrest the Sheriff should he fail to comply. At this time, seven sheriffs from around the country (Sheriff Mack, Sheriff from Arizona, Sheriff Koog from Texas, Sheriff Frank from Vermont, Sheriff Romero from Louisiana, Sheriff McGee from Mississippi, Sheriff Printz from Montana, and Sheriff Anders from Wyoming) filed suit against the federal government with the assertion that the Brady Bill was an unconstitutional law.

On June 27, 1997, they won their suit when the Supreme Court ruled that the Brady Bill was in fact unconstitutional stating that the federal government could not commandeer state or county officers for federal bidding. Justice Scalia asserted the following in the supreme court ruling:

"The great innovation of this design was that our citizens would have two political capacities, one state and one federal, each protected from incursion by the other, a legal system unprecedented in form and design, establishing two forms of government, each with its own direct relationship, its own privity, its own set of rights and obligations to the people who sustain it and are governed by it..."

The local or municipal authorities form distinct and independent portions of the supremacy, no more subject, within their respective spheres, to the general authority than the general authority is subject to them, within its own sphere...

This separation of the two spheres is one of the Constitution's structural protections of liberty, a healthy balance of power between the States and the Federal Government will reduce the risk of tyranny and abuse from either front..."

The power of the Federal Government would be augmented immeasurably if it were able to impress into its service – and at no cost to itself – the police officers of the 50 States."

The federal government must stay within its proper "sphere" and it is the sheriff's job to ensure that they do just that. One of our "structural protections of liberty" is based on the notion and principle that "different governments" will keep each other in check and by so doing; provide a "double security" to the rights of the people. Justice Scalia makes it clear that the federal government does not have the power or authority to "impress" the police from the states into federal service. Therefore, the sheriff does not have a lawful obligation to go along with unconstitutional federal actions.

The Supreme Court Ruling of the Printz case repeatedly states that "state legislatures are not subject to federal direction." Consequently, when the federal government steps outside its constitutional role, our local law enforcement officers have not only a lawful duty but a moral obligation to refuse to acquiesce. It is up to our local and statewide elected officials to "erect barriers" against such encroachments and to stand on the side of the people to provide them with the protection. Doing so is both right and proper and in accordance with an officer's oath to support our constitutional republic.

The Sheriff – More Power than the President

By Alan Stang

The office of sheriff has a pedigree so long, we are not positive about when it was created. We think it was in the Ninth Century in England. We do know that each land district, or "shire," was governed by a "reeve." The sheriff of Nottingham became famous. At first, the king appointed them. With few exceptions, our American shire reeves are elected by the people.

In 1997, in Nye County, Nevada, federal agents arrived to seize cattle that belonged to rancher Wayne Hage. The sheriff gave them a choice: skedaddle or be arrested. They skedaddled. The cows stayed where they were. Wyoming sheriffs have told federal agencies they must check with the respective sheriff before they serve any papers, make any arrests or confiscate any property.

In Idaho, a 74-year-old rancher shot an endangered gray wolf which had killed one of his calves. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sent three armed agents to serve a warrant. Lemhi County Sheriff Brett Barslough said that was "inappropriate, heavy-handed and dangerously close to excessive force." More than 500 people turned out for a rally in the small towns of Challis and Salmon to support the sheriff and the rancher and to tell the federal government to back off.

While Richard Mack was sheriff of Graham County, Arizona, a bridge washed out. Parents had to drive twenty six miles to get their kids to school half a mile across the river. But the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wouldn't fix it. First they had to do an "environmental impact study," to replace a bridge already there. They were in no hurry. The study would take a mere ten years.

The people's suffering reached the board of supervisors. The board voted to dredge the river and fix the bridge. The feds warned that they would be fined \$50,000 per day if they tried. The supervisors hesitated. Sheriff Mack promised them and the workers protection and pledged to call out a posse for the purpose if necessary. They built the bridge and the Corps of Engineers faded. The board never paid a dime.

So the long dormant spirit of America is reviving. The states are beginning to adopt Tenth Amendment resolutions, using powers they have always had. The people are restoring our long unbalanced constitutional system.

Our Sheriff

By Melinda McCutchen

I have had the privilege of being married to Coke County Sheriff Wayne McCutchen for over 31 years and I probably know him better than anyone else. I was there when the call came in at 4 am that Hall's Super Save was being burglarized and an employee could be in danger. He went from a dead sleep to arriving to search the store with drawn gun in 4 minutes. Even though he rarely said anything about it, I was there when memories of dead babies kept him awake from the wreck east of Bronte near Maverick. Or when other memories crowded in of having to be that knock on the door to tell parents he had just been with their dead children in one of the many wrecks that have happened in our county over the last 25 years of his service to Coke County. It's not like he didn't know these kids, he had known most since they were little and going to school with our daughters. I was there when he came home after doing his duty to transport one of our local citizens to prison. It's not that he didn't think they were guilty. He just hated to leave one of "his citizens" in such a scary place. I'm there when he stresses over the fact that he can't find a qualified deputy to replace one who's gone to another small department - one that pays \$20,000 more per year. That's happened twice in the last four months. You can't blame a certified Texas Peace Officer, a professional, for not wanting to come work for just over \$28,000 per year. In addition to having to compete with other rural counties paying so much more, he has to compete with the State of Texas who reward their brand new DPS troopers and game wardens with over \$47,000 per year fresh out of the academy.

It may have started out as "a job", but he quickly realized it was his calling. That's the only reason someone would stay in a job as a deputy for over 20 years where the salary was near or below the poverty level, you were on call and could not leave the county 24 hours a day for 5 days a week, and your wife had to answer the sheriff's office phone after hours and on weekends for 10 days a month (in the days before cell phones).

Don't get me wrong. I am glad Wayne does what he does. I'm extremely proud of him and his officers. What infuriates me are the comments from various other county officials about:

- how not much bad happens in here (Could that be because Wayne and his officers do amazing jobs? He and his officers handled over 250 calls per month last year.);
- how there are burglaries and the deputies aren't doing their jobs (How can 5 men have an eye on every piece of property in this rural county 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?);
- how he could make do with fewer deputies (Do you want to be the emergency when the deputy on duty is 30 miles away answering another call?);
- how the deputies can't make more money because the ladies in the courthouse or the road hands will be mad (when's the last time they were called out at 4 am and had to draw their gun at their job?);
- how they knew what the job paid when they started (If you'd been at a job for a quarter century, wouldn't you want to make considerably more than when you started?)

Did you know that until recently our Sheriff and his Deputies didn't have any protective vests? It's always been a possibility that when they stop a vehicle, the person inside could have and want to use a gun. However with the rapid rise in drug traffic, cartels and gangs traveling our highways, this possibility grows larger every day. With this last budget, they were able to purchase two vests. That means that two out of the five are protected (vests come in sizes like shirts and are not usually shared).

I didn't ask Wayne if I could include this and I know he wouldn't want me to. I'm hoping to use the old adage "better to ask for forgiveness". I know I'm biased, but I believe Wayne has done an exceptional job during his time in the Sheriff's Office. Judging by so many good comments from county citizens and the fact that he won his first election as a write-in, I believe many of you agree with me. Please contact your county commissioner and Judge Blair to voice your concerns.

The Bill of Rights

The Preamble to The Bill of Rights

Congress of the United States begun and held at the City of New York, on Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine (March 4, 1789).

THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution;

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

Note: The following text is a transcription of the first ten amendments to the Constitution in their original form. These amendments were ratified December 15, 1791, and form what is known as the "Bill of Rights."

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

As you can see, there is nothing in this about the "separation of church and state". That phrase was taken out of context from a personal letter written by Thomas Jefferson.

The 2nd Amendment mentions nothing about hunting or sporting use for firearms. It provides citizens with the legal means to defend themselves from a tyrannical government.

"People willing to trade their freedom for temporary security deserve neither and will lose both."

Benjamin Franklin

Why is the government starving our children?

I, along with US Representative Mike Conaway, was privileged to attend a presentation at Bronte High School Thursday, January 10, 2012. The program on the federally mandated school lunch regulations was compiled by and presented by BHS students Mizael Perez, Tabatha Huffman and Blaze Smith, along with their teacher, Cheryl Cornutt. Several coaches and administrators were also present and supported the students' claims with their own comments.

The information and several of the photos used are included.

Mrs. Obamacare CAFETERIA REGULATIONS

New rules

High school between 750-850 calories

Elementary 550-650 calories

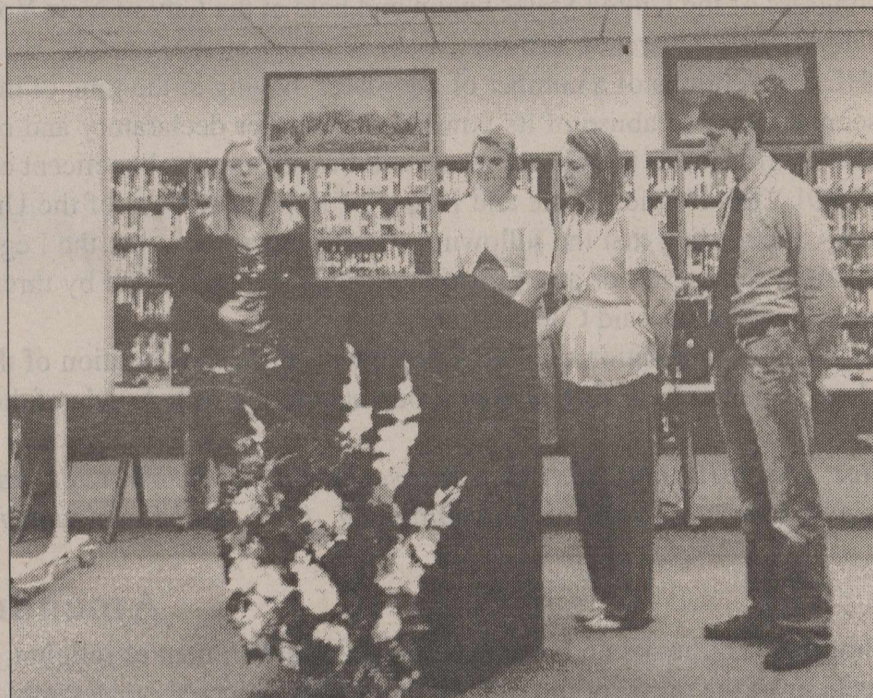
Old rules

High school minimum 825 calories

Elementary minimum 633 calories

Students are allowed 10-12 oz. of protein a week.

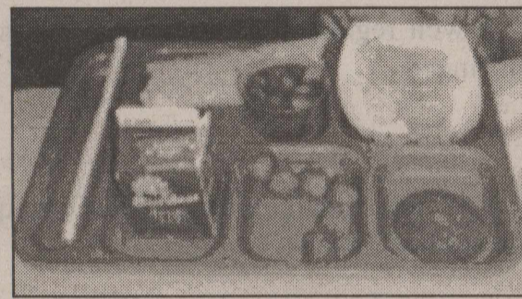
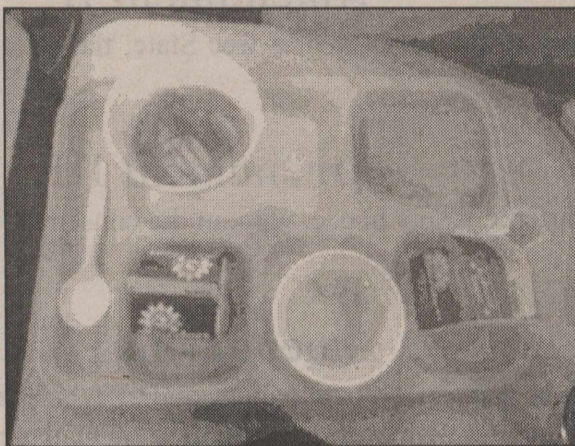
Daily calories, weekly calories, calories for each item on each tray, fruits, vegetables, whole grains, trans fat, protein, and sodium are all regulated. Even the amount of ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, and dressing is regulated.



Junior High/ High School Problems

Athletes not getting the correct amount of food considering the number of calories that they are burning while working out. Tom Vilsack [Dept. of Ag Secretary] said the Obama Administration is working with school districts to create snack programs and encouraging parents to pack extra food for their active students to munch on before football practice or band rehearsal.

Free and reduced lunch students can't afford snacks. Non free and reduced lunch students are already paying for lunch plus a snack now. Students are complaining about being hungry only 2 hours after eating. Students are getting headaches and stomach aches.



Burrito, Cucumbers, Sweet potato tots, Cookie, Chocolate Milk, Jello and Fruit

Elementary Problems



This is an actual BISD Elementary student with tray of food he's chosen.

Grilled cheese (wheat bread), Vegetable Soup, Apple Sauce, Chocolate Milk, Grape Juice

Elementary students are required to put three items on their trays at lunch. A six year old may not make a healthy choice in the amount of food that they take.

Example of three items: 1 bread stick, 1/2 apple, Chocolate Milk

Schools can provide a snack to help supplement the small amounts of food, but it must be funded by the school or a booster club.

	Daily	weekly	2 weeks	3 weeks	4 weeks
Pre K-5th	1.95	9.75	19.50	29.25	39.00
6th-12th	2.20	11.00	22.00	33.00	44.00

Families with multiple students cannot afford more food, they are already paying for lunch and the student is only getting a small portion.

Students are hungry all across America. We are not able to focus in class because we are tired due to a lack of energy. Food creates energy. With a lack of food we have a lack of energy. Students with after school activities are not getting another chance to eat until supper time. The lunch we are offered is not enough food to last us throughout the day. People have not become obese because of school lunches. Students, that can afford it, are going home right after school and pigging out because they are not getting enough to eat at school. The cost of school lunches have gone up even though we are getting less food. The government is regulating everything with our lunches. The jobs of cafeteria workers are getting harder and harder because of the regulations. For some lower income students the cafeteria lunch is the only food they will receive that day.

Do not let the children of America go hungry.

Rep. Steve King Iowa and Rep. Tim Huelskamp introduced the "No Kids Hungry Act." To repeal menu standards and prohibit calorie limits.

Please support the "No Kids Hungry Act"

Additional

After a conversation with school officials, I learned the following facts.

- Community Service organizations and clubs may not provide food for students on a regular basis.
- Students may not share food from home with other students.
- Breaking the federal rules can result in a loss of funding.
- Bronte ISD receives 70-80% of their annual budget from state and federal funding.

If I still had a child in school, I would continue to pay for their lunches but I would also send a supplemental lunch packed with protein and healthy carbs.

BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS

Cheyenne Boyd Named to Dean's List at McMurry University

Cheyenne Boyd, a Junior Pre-Nursing major from Bronte has been named to the Fall 2012 Dean's List at McMurry University. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must have maintained at least a 3.5 grade point average while taking 12 or more credit hours.

Cheyenne, a Bronte High School graduate, is the daughter of Marty and Missy Boyd of Bronte.

January is School Board Recognition Month

Texans benefit every day from the tireless work and countless hours contributed by a group of more than 7,300 men and women in communities across the state. These local volunteers are elected by their constituents and receive no compensation for their work as public servants. These men and women are the school board members of Texas.

January is School Board Recognition Month and Bronte ISD will take this opportunity to show their appreciation to these local leaders for devoting time

to support public education and serve our local schools.

The board members serving Bronte ISD are Paul Williams, Kay Styles, Shane Kelton, Ray Barnett, Blake Braswell, Jay Henderson and David McWright.

Local Bronte Scholarships available

The C.J. Macon Memorial Scholarship and the Bronte Community Scholarship is now available to graduating seniors at Bronte High School. Applications are available online at 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 9, 2013.

The C.J. Macon Memorial Scholarship is also open to past BHS graduates. Please turn in applications to Mrs. Timmerman, counselor, on or before April 9th. For more information, please call the counselor's office at 473-2511.

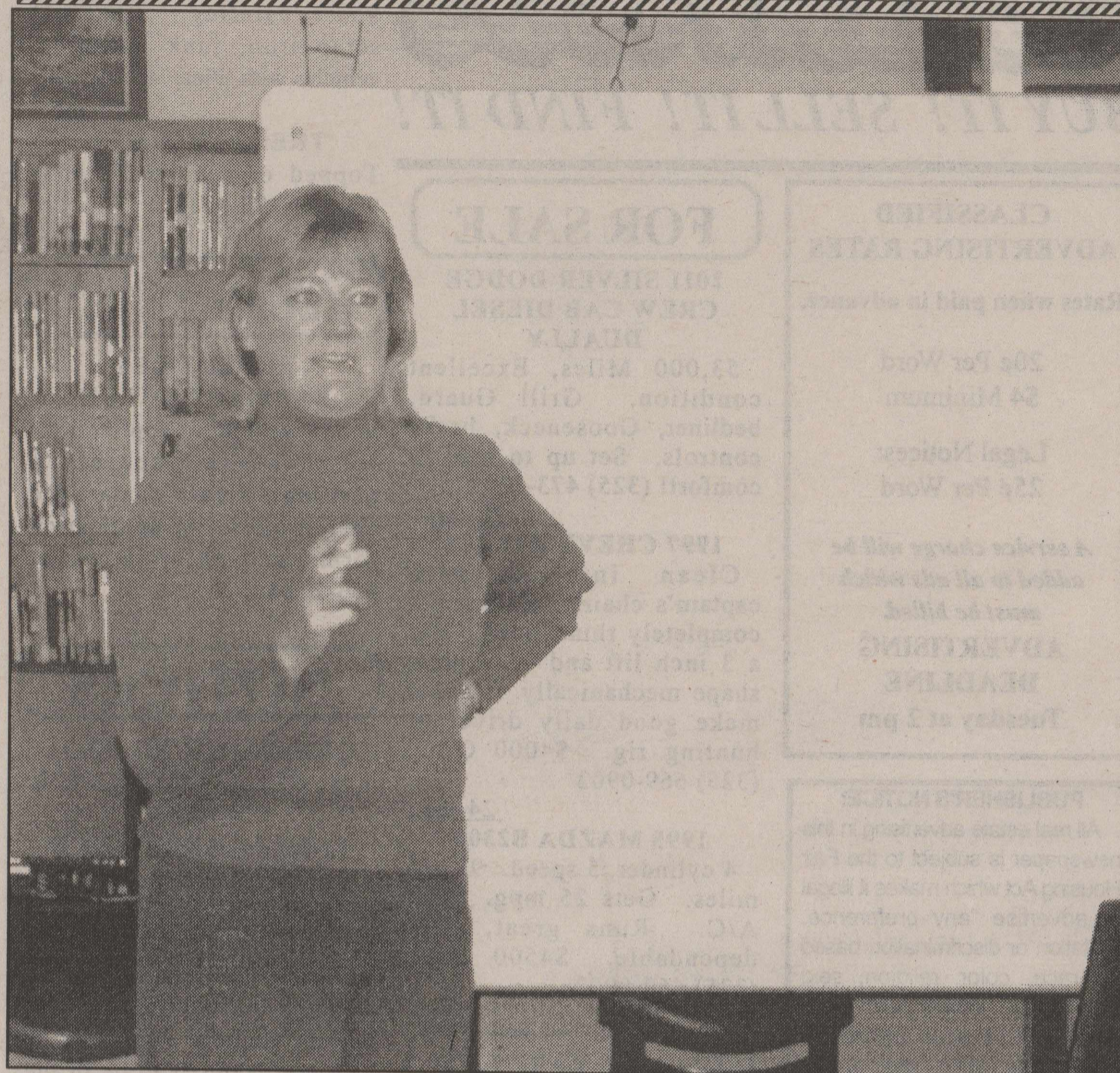
Financial Aid Night slated for January 24

Senior parents and students are invited to attend a financial aid workshop on Thursday evening, January 24, 2013. The workshop will be held from 6:30 to 7 pm in the Bronte ISD Library and will assist participants in learning how to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Information regarding loans, grants, scholarships, and the work study program for college will also be discussed.

The session will be presented by a representative from the financial aid department at Angelo State University.

SAAF Scholarship applications available

The San Angelo Area Foundation (SAAF) has posted their scholarship online at www.saafound.org. The San Angelo Area Foundation manages scholarship funds from a variety of different donors and organizations. These scholarships are awarded by a variety of selection criteria, unique to each fund. Independent review committees review each



Lincoln College of Technology Presentation! Stacy Whitehead from Lincoln College of Technology in Grand Prairie, Texas, recently spoke to the seniors at Bronte High School about the programs Lincoln College of Technology offers, as well as, the admission process, financial aid and scholarships available. Lincoln College of Technology is a vocational college offering programs in diesel technology, automotive technology, collision repair and refinishing technology, welding technology and heating, air conditioning and refrigeration technology. Mrs. Whitehead also did a budget with the seniors so that they could visually see how much it costs to live on their own. For more information about Lincoln College of Technology, please visit www.lincolncollegeoftechnology.com.

application which is then matched to the scholarship criteria selected by the donor or the organization which established the scholarship.

The deadline to apply is March 1, 2013. For more information and a list of the scholarships offered, please visit the website or contact Mrs. Timmerman, BHS counselor, at 473-2511.

Bronte High School Scholarship Check List

Due Feb. 1
Playing with Purpose Scholarship
www.playingwithpurpose.org

Due Feb. 15
Ford Ivey Motor Company in Robert Lee Scholarship (FFA)
Best Buy Scholarship
www.pr.bby.com
Texas Lyceum Scholarship
www.texaslyceum.org

Due March 1

San Angelo Area Foundation (high school seniors and college students) www.saaaf.org.

Texas Elks State Association Scholarship
www.texaselks.org

Due March 18

Texas Telephone Scholarship
www.tta.org

Due March 29

Slough Scholarship
www.midland.edu/slough

Due March 31

Janice M. Scott Memorial Scholarship

Due April 1

Taylor Telephone Cooperative Scholarship

Due April 2

Community Foundation of Abilene Scholarship
www.cfabilene.org

Due April 9

Bronte Community Scholarship
www.bronteisd.net

C.J. Macon Memorial Scholarship (Bronte HS and alumni) www.bronteisd.net

Due April 20

Concho Valley Electric Scholarship
www.cvec.coop

Due May 1

San Angelo Stock Show Scholarship
www.sanangelorodeo.com

Due May 31

Marie Hall Scholarship (ASU, Texas Tech, Howard College, Midland College) www.pbaf.org. *Click on the Marie Hall Scholarship application, not the General Scholarship application.

School Menu



Breakfast

Monday, January 21

Sausage roll, toast/jelly, or cereal, juice, milk

Tuesday, January 22

Breakfast pizza, toast/jelly, or cereal, juice, milk

Wednesday, January 23

Pancake on a stick, toast/jelly, or cereal, juice, milk

Thursday, January 24

Breakfast wrap, toast/jelly, or cereal, juice, milk

Friday, January 25

Biscuit & sausage, toast/jelly, or cereal, juice, milk

Lunch

Monday, January 21

Hamburger, potato tots, western beans, diced pears, milk

Tuesday, January 22

Tangerine chicken, brown rice, baby carrots, steamed broccoli, snowball salad, milk

Wednesday, January 23

Tex-mex stack, Spanish rice, refried beans, garden salad, salsa, hot cinnamon apples, milk

Thursday, January 24

Stuffed BBQ potato with cheese, carrot coins, breadstick, fresh fruit bowl, cherry fruit bar, milk

Friday, January 25

Chicken parmesan, green beans, garden salad, fresh apple slices, breadstick, milk

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20¢ Per Word
 \$4 Minimum


Legal Notices:
 25¢ Per Word

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE
 Tuesday 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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FOR SALE

2008 FORD F250
 Super Duty 4x4 Single Cab, Powerstroke, 127,500 miles, gooseneck hitch, full replacement front bumper, \$19,000 OBO (325) 277-9210.

20-tnp

SOONER 5 HORSE ALUMINUM TRAILER
 Great condition. Large dressing room. (325) 473-3201.

23-tnp

Fish Fridays!
 Catfish or Shrimp
 All the Fixin's
 \$7.99
 per plate

CINDY'S
 409 W. 10th
 Robert Lee
 453-9200

FOR SALE

2011 SILVER DODGE CREW CAB DIESEL DUALY
 53,000 Miles, Excellent condition. Grill Guard, bedliner, Gooseneck, brake controls. Set up to haul in comfort! (325) 473-3201.

23-tnp

1997 CHEVY Z71 4X4
 Clean interior with captain's chairs. Exterior is completely rhino lined. Has a 3 inch lift and is in great shape mechanically. Would make good daily driver or hunting rig. \$4000 OBO. (325) 669-0902

24-tnp

24-tnp

1995 MAZDA B2300
 4 cylinder, 5 speed. 93,000 miles. Gets 25 mpg. New A/C. Runs great, very dependable. \$4500 OBO. (325) 669-0902.

24-tnp

FOR RENT

FOR RENT
 8 x 10 storage units in Bronte. Call 325-473-3257.

14-tnp

BRONTE MINI STORAGE
 has storage buildings for rent. 473-2221, 473-0409.

45-tnp

MISCELLANEOUS

THE BARBER SHOP
 NEW DAYS EFFECTIVE MONDAY, JUNE 11TH! 211 N. Lombard. Thursday & Friday, 9-5. Avon Independent Sales Rep. 650-1970.

03-tnp

PET GROOMING AND BOARDING
 The Dog House, 119 N. State, Bronte. Monday - Thursday 8 am to 4 pm. (325) 234-1599. Call anytime.

22-tnp

ECOM Computers, Etc!
 New and used. Repairs and upgrades. Ed Martindale 473-3004

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 955 ac North of Robert Lee near Sanco, good water and some new fences, \$1,100/ac
 1800 ac Coke County, Live Spring, Good Wells, Minerals Avail. \$1,275/ac
 4 Sections in Reagan Co., Hwy Frontage, Good Underground Water \$695/ac.
 1100 ac Runnels Co Mineral available \$1,250/ac
 53.7 ac on Rough Creek Great Hunting \$1,450/ac
 3 BR/2BA Home on 3 Acres Sanco Road \$114,900

MISCELLANEOUS

HANDYMAN
 for comp. & metal roofing, plumbing, drain cleaning, water heater installment, house painting. Haul off scrap iron, junk batteries, vehicles with titles. 453-2339.

23-tnp

TREES TRIMMED
 Topped or removed. 453-9902 or 473-8712.

43-tnp

HELP WANTED

ROBERT LEE BAPTIST CHURCH
 is now accepting applications for church secretary position. Please contact the church office for application forms and information at 453-2724.

27-tnp

NOTICES

ORDINANCE NO. 13-01 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 365
ANIMAL ORDINANCE
 WHEREAS, the existing Animal Ordinance does not regulate withy specificity, veterinary hospitals, pets shops, kennels, circuses, and animal shelters and the City Council deems it to be in the public interest to do so;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Bronte, Texas as follows:
ORDINANCE NO. 365 is amended by adding the following new section 26(d):
 26(d) i. A permit shall be in the form approved by the City Council.
 ii. Each permitted locations shall:
 (1) maintain a clean and sanitary yard;
 (2) have adequate housing for each animal;
 (3) have fencing to adequately contain the animals;
 (4) vaccinations for each animal with documentation from a certified veterinarian;
 (5) have not received any complaints for nuisance violations or violations of the City of Bronte Animal Ordinance;

Bob Frazee's 944-0010
 473-6603

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 316.5 acres • 43 acres • 215 acres • 201.5 acres
 320 acres • 140 acres
 Runnels County • 794.5 acres river front property

New Listings!
 2 BR, 2 BA, Brick Home with separate office and storage building
 2 BR, 1 BA, Frame House, Carport, Storage Building
 Brick House on 3 acres
 Brick House on 2.6 acres

FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT JOE ASH.

(6) have not received any complaints through the County Sheriff's Department;
 (7) maintain not more than one (1) litter of animals at a time and not breed multiple animals at the same time;
 (8) provide a petition signed by surrounding inhabitants within a three hundred (300) ft. radius of the proposed location granting their consent to the operation of said business.

(1) Failure to comply with this ordinance;
 (2) Failing an animal inspection;
 (3) Conviction of noise disturbance or nuisance;
 (4) Providing false information;
 (5) Conviction of animal cruelty.

Passed and approved this 10th day of January, 2013.
EFFECTIVE DATE:
JANUARY 25, 2012
 ATTEST: PAT MARTINDALE
 CITY OF BRONTE
 BY: GERALD SANDUSKY
 MAYOR
 27-1tc

If paying subscription renewal by check, please put name to be renewed in memo line of check.

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE
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Bronte Health & Rehab
 Now Taking Applications for the following positions.

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Day Shift 6a-6p
Night Shift 6p-6a

Apply in person at:
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 Bronte, TX.
 EOE

Shirley's Place
 is the drop spot in Bronte for

Dry Clean Super Center

Drop off Monday morning & pick up Thursday afternoon. Drop off Thursday morning and pick up Monday afternoon.

BEAUTIFUL ROCK HOME
 near School! Circle Drive leads to this 3 Bedroom Home with 2 Large Living Areas! Open Floor plan with Fabulous Fireplace in Den! Patio doors lead to Large covered patio and Carport!

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 www.conchorealty.com

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

...More Classifieds

NOTICES

NOTICE OF FILING DEADLINES

The West Coke County Hospital Board of Directors hereby gives notice of filing deadlines for the May 11, 2013 Election. Two (2) Directors will be elected for a term of two (2) years each. Candidates may file applications for inclusion on the ballot between January 30, 2013, and March 01, 2013. Applications and petitions may be obtained at Robert Lee Care Center during normal business hours, 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Any questions may be addressed to Roger Alexander, Administrator.

AVISO DE FECHA LIMITE

El Consejo Administrativo de West Coke County Hospital District da aviso a su eleccion que da principio el 11 de mayo, 2013 con el proposito de elegir dos (2) directores por plazo de dos (2) años cada uno. Los candidatos pueden obtener las aplicaciones para la inclusion en la votacion entre el 30 de enero 2013 y el 1 de marzo de 2013. Las aplicaciones y las peticiones se pueden obtener en las oficinas de Robert Lee Care Center durante el horario normal, 9 am - 5 pm, de lunes ha viernes. Cualquiera pregunta puede ser dirigida a Roger Alexander, Administrator.

26-2tc

... RLJH Basketball
(Continued from page 4)

In the second round, the Lady Dogies defeated Highland 29-15. Scoring for Robert Lee were Anna Huapilla . 8, Chesney Minjarez 6, Mariah Munoz 13, and Kiara Burns 2.

The Lady Dogie "B" also participated in the Bronte "B" Tournament. In the first round, they raced Menard and defeated them 20-14.

Scoring for Robert Lee were Nicole Jones 2, Margo Mendoza 10, Kourtney Roach 6, and Senecio Newell 2.

In the second round, the Lady Dogies fell to Bronte 8-20. Scoring for Robert Lee were Nicole Jones 2, Margo Mendoza 2, and Kaitlyn Tijerina 4.

On Monday, January 14, the Robert Lee "A" Lady Dogies hosted Bronte and were defeated 10-11.

Scoring for Robert Lee were Anna Huapilla 2, Chesney Minjarez 2, Jessie Wheat 2 and Maria Munoz 4.

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ROBERT LEE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2012

Date Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	60 Capital Projects	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 3,235,799	\$ 1,696,862	\$ 3,017	\$ 20,277	\$ 4,955,955
5800 State Program Revenues	1,062,472	-	-	25,870	1,088,342
5900 Federal Program Revenues	7,181	-	-	239,137	246,318
5020 Total Revenues	4,305,452	1,696,862	3,017	285,284	6,290,615
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	1,288,729	-	-	187,452	1,476,181
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	9,407	-	-	-	9,407
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	67	-	-	-	67
0021 Instructional Leadership	3,663	-	-	-	3,663
0023 School Leadership	167,477	-	-	-	167,477
0031 Guidance, Counseling, and Evaluation Services	32,525	-	-	-	32,525
0033 Health Services	280	-	-	-	280
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	100,537	-	-	-	100,537
0035 Food Services	4,576	-	-	167,019	171,595
0036 Extracurricular Activities	116,410	-	-	-	116,410
0041 General Administration	215,794	-	-	9,000	224,794
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	409,342	-	10,330	-	419,672
0053 Data Processing Services	117,471	-	-	-	117,471
Debt Service:					
0071 Principal on Long-Term Debt	-	1,237,247	-	-	1,237,247
0072 Interest on Long-Term Debt	-	440,703	-	-	440,703
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	235,707	-	-	235,707
Capital Outlay:					
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	-	-	131,973	-	131,973
Intergovernmental:					
0091 Contracted Instructional Services Between Schools	672,717	-	-	-	672,717
0092 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	252,131	-	-	-	252,131
0097 Payments to Tax Increment Fund	252,605	-	-	-	252,605
0099 Other Intergovernmental Charges	79,427	-	-	-	79,427
4030 Total Expenditures	3,723,158	1,913,157	142,303	363,471	6,142,089
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	582,294	(216,295)	(139,286)	(78,187)	148,526
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	-	11,624,990	-	-	11,624,990
7915 Transfers In	-	-	136,664	69,441	206,105
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	-	744,573	-	-	744,573
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(206,105)	-	-	-	(206,105)
8949 Other (Uses)	-	(12,134,191)	-	-	(12,134,191)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(206,105)	235,372	136,664	69,441	235,372
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	376,189	19,077	(2,622)	(8,746)	383,898
0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	1,080,660	157,426	2,622	43,390	1,284,098
1300 Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	(172,731)	-	-	-	(172,731)
3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$ 1,284,118	\$ 176,503	\$ -	\$ 34,644	\$ 1,495,265

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

IVEY MOTOR COMPANY, INC.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2012 Ford Flex Limited #7133 \$27,995
<i>White Suede w/Black Leather • A Steal!!!</i> | 2008 Mercury Grand Marquis LS #6423B \$12,495
<i>Wedgewood Blue w/Tan Leather • Local Car!</i> |
| 2009 Ford F-250 Crew Cab XLT #L059A \$18,995
<i>Pale Adobe w/Tan Cloth • Powerstroke • Ready to Go!</i> | 2007 Ford F-150 Super Crew XLT #6508B \$15,995
<i>Dark Stone w/Adobe Accent • 4.6 V8</i> |
| 2010 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer #7134 \$23,995
<i>Black Pearl Slate • Two Tone Leather Seats • Really Sharp!!</i> | 2002 Ford F-250 Super Cab XLT #6033A \$ 7,500
<i>Silver Metallic • Charcoal Interior • 7.3 Powerstroke</i> |
| 2012 Ford F-150 Super Crew 4x4 #L126A \$34,995
<i>Black King Ranch w/Navigation & Moon Roof! Loaded!</i> | 2004 Ford F-250 Crew Cab 4x4 #L126M \$14,995
<i>White King Ranch • Powerstroke • Great Condition!</i> |
| 2011 Ford Fusion SE #71-32 \$16,995
<i>Steel Blue w/Charcoal Interior</i> | 2006 Ford F-150 Super Crew #6507A \$11,995
<i>Red Fire Lariat w/Tan Leather</i> |
| 2008 Ford F-250 Crew Cab 4x4 #6511A \$26,995
<i>Dark Stone Lariat • Powerstroke • One Owner!</i> | 2012 Ford Focus SE #6502A \$15,995
<i>Red Fire Metallic w/Tan Cloth • Great Fuel Economy • 8K Miles!</i> |
| 2008 Ford F-150 Super Cab 4x4 6450A \$17,995
<i>Tan Metallic w/Adobe Cloth • 5.4 • Grill Guard</i> | |
| 2011 Ford F-150 Super Crew #L124A \$24,995
<i>Dark Blue w/Gray Cloth • Power Seat</i> | |
| 2011 Ford Mustang Coupe #5178 \$19,995
<i>Grabber Blue w/Charcoal Interior • Grabs You!</i> | |
| 2008 Lincoln Navigator L #13039A \$22,995
<i>Black w/2Tone Leather Capt. Seats • 2nd Row Capt Chairs • Heated & Cooled Seats • Moon Roof • Rear Entertainment DVD • WOW!!!</i> | |
| 2008 Lincoln Town Car Signature #6515A \$16,995
<i>Adobe w/Tan Leather • 52K Miles • Really Nice!</i> | |

453-4561

Ask For:
**Randy Flanagan • Jim Herring
Billy Wayne Roe**

BLACKWELL SCHOOL NEWS

Jones named All-State Honorable Mention

Jayden Jones, a junior at Blackwell High School, was named All-State Honorable Mention Running Back.

Lady Hornets fall to tough Water Valley team

The Blackwell Lady Hornets hosted the Lady Wildcats of Water Valley Friday, January 11, 2013.

At the end of the first quarter, the Lady Wildcats led 22-4. They added another 18 points to their lead, putting the score at the half at 40-9. It

continued that way throughout the second half with the final score standing at 17-75.

Blackwell School Awards 3rd 6 Weeks A Honor Roll

1st Grade

Michah Boynton, Hana Hogan, Austin Magness, Hallie Scott

2nd Grade

Luz Cano, Blane Crosson, Matthew Shipman

3rd Grade

Selah Boynton, Makayla Lee, Cadi Powers

4th Grade

Devin Clower, Shaylon McGlothlin, Zachary Panzer

5th Grade

Jordan Jones, Emilee Sanderson, Madison Solis

6th Grade

Kassia Plotnik, Carli Powers

7th Grade

Payton McKee, Shelby Panzer

8th Grade

Krista Clower, Halee Sanderson

9th Grade

Cole Alley, Shianne Solis

10th Grade

Harrison Gott

11th Grade

Shelby Alley, Jayden Jones, Mason Magness, Brian Mink, Summer Mull

12th Grade

J.P. Davis, Ashley Jeter, BreAnne Richardson, Cody Shamblin, Elizabeth Shults

A/B Honor Roll

1st Grade

Jesse McKinney, Shelby Rasco

2nd Grade

Dustin Boyd

3rd Grade

Chloe McKinney

4th Grade

Madie Bell, Jaci Malone, Darrian Kenney, Allison Panzer, Nathaniel Shipman

5th Grade

Jacie Fields, Grant Gott

6th Grade

Victoria Davis, Peyton Hinckley, Elizabeth Meyer, Hunter Perry

7th Grade

Hunter Clark

8th Grade

Crystal Chavez, Abby Gott, Karstin Hoyle, Audrey Mink, Abigail Sorrells, Chauntrelle Weeks

9th Grade

Hailey Bennett

10th Grade

Wade Allen, Franck Cano, Veeda Jeter, Stephanie Metcalf

11th Grade

Ted Chambliss, Hannah Coffman, Bailey McGlothlin, Brittant Neagle, Julia Taylor

12th Grade

Bethany Breaux, Leonor Castelo

San Angelo Area Foundation Scholarship

application available

The San Angelo Area Foundation's 2013 scholarship application is now available through March 1, 2013, for students attending college in the fall of 2013.

Interested students can apply at www.saafound.org, by clicking on the "Scholarships" tab.

The San Angelo Area Foundation manages over 80 scholarship funds, created by generous donors for the benefit of students.

The student need only complete one online application and each scholarship is awarded based on a variety of qualifications unique to each scholarship fund. Scholarship awards are announced in early May.

If you have any questions during the application process, please contact our office either by email, scholarship@saafound.org or by calling (325) 947-7071.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The Centers for Disease Control has declared that we are having a VERY severe Flu Season this year. Our Robert Lee Care Center resident population is very susceptible to any infection due to their current health conditions.

Therefore, if you have the Flu or any of the Flu symptoms please stay away from the facility and the residents.

FLU SYMPTOMS

- A fever or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Fatigue (feeling very tired)

The CDC recommends that you stay home until you have been free of fever for at least 24 hours without taking medications to reduce the fever.

Precautions are:

- Get the Flu Shot, its not too late (No you cannot get the flu from the shot)
- Wash you hands
- Do not touch your eyes,

nose or mouth

Thanks for your cooperation in the care of our residents.

Roger Alexander,
Administrator

Robert Lee Care Center

Registration opens for Stribling Art Event

Entries now are being accepted for the upcoming Stribling Art Extravaganza scheduled March 22-24 at historic Fort Concho to benefit West Texas Rehabilitation Center.

Interested persons who are at least 18 years of age and are a current or former resident of the Concho Valley are eligible and may go online to www.striblingart.org or enter by mail by calling 325-223-6313 or 223-6414. Deadline to enter is February 15th.

Ben and Beverly Stribling underwrite the annual spring show and sale which will feature an array of original works ranging from oils, acrylics and watercolors to bronzes, metal works, ceramics, wood and stone.

A Young Artists' Display featuring the works of local and area high school students will be on tap again this year and interested art teachers may call the numbers displayed above for more information.

School Menu

Breakfast

Monday, January 21

Pancakes or cereal, juice, milk

Tuesday, January 22

Breakfast burrito and salsa or cereal, juice, milk

Wednesday, January 23

Breakfast pizza or cereal, juice, milk

Thursday, January 24

Scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits, gravy or cereal, juice, milk

Friday, January 25

Donuts/gogurt or cereal, juice, milk

Lunch

Monday, January 21

Chicken & broccoli penne, garden salad, baby carrots, apple slices, breadstick, milk

Tuesday, January 22

Ultimate taco salad, seasoned corn, fresh fruit bowl, milk

Wednesday, January 23

Steak fingers, whipped potatoes with gravy, savory green beans, apple-pineapple d'lite, milk

Thursday, January 24

Chicken quesadilla, black beans, baby carrots, orange smiles, salsa, milk

Friday, January 25

Pizza choice, garden salad, fresh veggie cup, mixed fruit, milk

Make your financial future a priority.



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MENCHACA'S PROCESSING

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Beginning March 1st, we will be open for over-the-counter retail sales. We have some products available now.

Custom orders are welcome. Please call with any questions.

Salami (Pork/Beef)

Summer Sausage (Pork/Beef)

German Sausage (Pork/Beef)

Snack Sticks (Pork/Beef)

Bratwurst (Pork)

Chorizo (Pork)

We will have Hand-Cut Steaks, Smoked Meats, Jerky, Brisket, and Hams. Other products will also be available until sold out.

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Friday • 10 am to 7 pm

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