

Bronte Chamber of Commerce meeting held

The Bronte Chamber of Commerce held their monthly meeting Monday, February 11, 2013, at Bronte's General Store.

Plans were discussed for the Bronte Chamber of Commerce Banquet to be held on Tuesday, April 30, 2013, at the Bronte Community Center.

The organization will be taking nominations for Business of the Year and Citizen of the year. More information on the nomination process will be announced at a later date.

The Banquet, a fish fry, will be catered by the Burns family of Robert Lee.

Coke County Retired Teachers meet

The Coke County Retired Teachers Association met Monday, February 18, 2013. The noon luncheon was held at First Baptist Church in Bronte.

Bill Hood, Vice President, presided at the meeting for President Gary Smith. Ann Hamilton, Secretary, read the minutes of the January 21, 2013, meeting. Paul Gothard, Legislative Chairman, gave his report. He urged members to continue to keep in touch with legislators concerning school and RTA issues.

Members are reminded that the TRTA Rally Day in Austin will be held Wednesday, March 20, 2013. A bus will be leaving from Brownwood at 6:45 am. The return bus trip will be at 2 pm. Make reservations before Friday, March 15, 2013. Contact Nancy Byler at (325) 646-0445.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 18, 2013.

In attendance were Wanda Barbee, Jamie Boren, Wanda Brewer, Kay Gothard, Paul Gothard, Ann Hamilton, Bill Hood, Merle Kelso, Sug Lawhon, Beth Prather, Gerald Sandusky, Leva Self, Lee Wommack, and one guest,

Donna Poehls.

... CRP Sign-up

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improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat. Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on September 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years). Producers also are encouraged to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, sign-up basis and that often provide additional financial assistance.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Sen. Cornyn Introduces Bill To Protect Seniors' Access to Medicare

Last Thursday, February 14, 2013, U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) introduced the Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2013, cosponsored by Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and 30 Senators, which would protect the rights of patients, families, and doctors to make medical decisions by repealing the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB).

"If there's one thing President Obama has made clear, it's that he wants the government to play an increasing role in the lives of everyday Americans. But time and again, we've seen that more government intrusion means less freedom and less individual choices. The President's IPAB does exactly that, taking personal health care decisions away from



Vision with a Purpose! Robert Lee's Vision with a Purpose presented a Welcome Basket to Bro. and Mrs. Kenneth Powell, the new pastor of Pecan Baptist Church. Presenting the basket to Mrs. Powell (center) are Grace Todacheeny and Beverly Hawkins (right).

seniors and their families and putting greater power in the hands of unaccountable bureaucrats. I'm glad to have the support of many of my colleagues on this important measure to help put a stop to government encroachment," Sen. Cornyn said.

"Instead of putting patients and doctors in charge of personal health care decisions, the IPAB empowers government and leaves the tough medical choices up to unelected Washington bureaucrats. We can correct this fundamental flaw in the President's health law by simply repealing it and replacing it with concrete, structural entitlement reforms that will shore up programs, like Medicare, for future generations," Sen. Hatch said.

Background

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act created the IPAB, an unelected, unaccountable board of bureaucrats to make additional cuts to the Medicare program based on arbitrary global

budget targets. The IPAB consists of 15 individuals appointed by the President who are tasked with making substantial changes to Medicare—without full transparency and accountability to America's seniors and their elected officials. Senator Cornyn and co-sponsors of the bill have noted several additional concerns with the IPAB, including:

The IPAB takes decision-making authority from elected officials and gives it to the President's political appointees. If the President fails to appoint members to the IPAB, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is required to put forward a plan that would automatically go into effect unless

Congress acts.

The IPAB is prohibited from making any meaningful structural reforms to Medicare that would help preserve the program. Instead, its recommendations are essentially limited to provider cuts, which will further exacerbate problems of beneficiary access.

During Congress' debate over health reform, 75 diverse provider groups raised serious concerns about the IPAB. Their letter stated: "The IPAB reductions would be in addition to the...savings in provider payments already included in health care reform legislation, which could jeopardize both access for Medicare beneficiaries and even infrastructure for the entire health care system."

Sid and Johnnie Eubanks celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary



on January 1, 2013. Sid celebrated his 90th Birthday on February 21, 2013. Please come to the Bronte Community Center February 23rd from 3 pm to 5 pm to help us celebrate these milestones in their life.

Please bring cards, memories and photos, but no gifts please.

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