

...Wildlife Biologists

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Mortality events have been observed in early arriving insectivore bird species such as purple martins and other passerine species. These events have been more prevalent in areas where seed resources were covered by recent historic snowfall and that experienced long-lasting, below-freezing temperatures.

TPWD staff have observed waterfowl mortality events due to freezing conditions in wetlands on some TPWD Wildlife Management Areas.

Bird feeders are being heavily relied upon by various species in areas that have experienced a sudden decrease in local food resources due to snowfall.

Biologists have reported that birds are congregating near roads due to melted snow and ice, increasing water availability. This has resulted in an increase in wildlife-vehicle collisions.

During cold weather, many fish slow down and head for deeper waters where it's somewhat warmer. Unfortunately, fish in shallow water, especially in our coastal areas, may not survive a hard freeze, resulting in large 'fish kills' during cold snaps. The TPWD Kills and Spills team collects data on these events to assess the overall impact on Texas fish populations.

When temperatures on the coast fall below freezing, TPWD may close certain areas to saltwater fishing as is already the case this year.

Alligators should survive well with short snaps of freezing water. Long-term impacts to alligator populations won't be known until TPWD staff and landowners are able to survey their properties when conditions improve.

Sea turtles can become cold stunned when water temperatures drop. This leaves them lethargic and unable to move into deeper water which results in stranding. TPWD Coastal Fisheries Biologists and Texas Game Wardens have assisted in multiple sea turtle rescue operations since Feb. 14 near the Brownsville Ship Channel and surrounding bays, as well as near Matagorda Bay. Once the sea turtles are rescued from the water, they are then transported to the proper facility. When temperatures warm, the sea turtles can be safely released.

If you see a cold stunned sea turtle, please call 1-866-TURTLE5.

As the cold weather continues, along with the continued potential for more freezing precipitation, the availability of high-quality wildlife habitat will be critical for many species to survive through this week's weather in some locations across the state.

TPWD staff will keep monitoring the impacts of this historic weather event on wildlife. When TPWD operations can return to normal, we will continue to update the public on the state's wildlife resources.

Since 1889, newspapers have served Coke County beginning with the Coke County Rustler. In the 1980s, the Bronte Enterprise and the Robert Lee Observer combined to become The Observer/Enterprise. The history told in these publications is fascinating and we want to share it with our readers of today. Each week, we will include items from the archives.

The BRONTE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 53 (Old Vol. No. 66), No. 9 Bronte, Texas (76933), February 26, 1971 Price 10c

In Three Elections

Filing Deadline Approaches



J. Vaughn, M. Lee, S. Richards Named For 11-B Honors

Three members of the Bronte High School girls basketball team were honored when selections were announced for the District 11-B all-district team. Jolene Vaughn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Vaughn, was selected as a forward on the team. Melissa Lee was selected as a guard. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Royce Lee. Sallie Richards, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Conda Richards, received honorable mention as a guard on the mythical team. Other forwards were Gloria Dodd of Forsan and Lisa Hirt of Garden City. Other guards were Connie Dunagan of Forsan and Willa Coffman of Garden City. Honorable mentions went to forwards Bobby Glenn of Garden City, Susan Terry of Sterling City and Jackie Condon of Forsan. Other honorable mentions for guards went to Deborah Halfman, Garden City; Gaye Stewart, Sterling City; and Debbie Fryar and Kathy Reed, Forsan.

Candidates have through next Wednesday to file for places on the ballots which will be used in three elections to be held here April 3. Candidate have to file 30 days before the balloting. Voters of Bronte Independent School District will elect three trustees in the April balloting. Trustees whose terms expire are Wayne Arrott, present board president, Dale Thompson and James Arnold Tidwell. Other members of the school board who have either one or two more years to serve are R. T. Caperton, Russell Carlton, Delbert Coalson and Glenn Skelton. Polling places for the school trustee election will be set up in Bronte and Tennyson. Candidates who wish to run for trustee must have their names filed with County Judge W. W. Thetford. A candidate may file his own name, or names may be filed by petition. Forms for either type filing may be secured in the superintendent's office at school.

City Election
In the city election, also to be held April 3, two aldermen will be elected to the city council. Terms of Bill Thomas and Jerry Parker expire in April. Hold-over members of the council include Mayor Martin Lee and Aldermen Tommy Lee, Elroy Butler and James Badgett. Candidates for the council jobs must file their names 30 days before the election with City Secretary Mrs. Helen Kirkland.

Hospital District Voting
Members of the Board of directors of East Coke County Hospital District met Tuesday night and called an election, which also will be held April 3. Two directors will be elected to fill positions now held by Matthew Caperton and E. F. Glenn, whose terms expire this year. Directors who have another year to serve include C. R. Blake, LeDew Arrott and Dwain Pruitt. Candidates for hospital district directors must have their names submitted by petition to the board secretary, Dwain Pruitt. Official notices of the three elections will be published during the next few weeks preceding the voting. Absentee voting in Texas elections is set from 20 days to three days before elections.

Sims Open Friday In New Location

Sims Food Store personnel have been busy this week moving the store's stock and fixtures into a new home across the street. The new location is on the corner of Main and Washington in the building formerly occupied by C. R. Smith & Co. Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Smis Jr., owners of the store, purchased the building late last year and have been busy the last couple of months redecorating and remodeling it. They have installed a new ceiling, rewired, painted the interior and made other improvements. Two new gondolas were constructed to give more display space. Sims said they would be busy all day Thursday putting out several thousand dollars worth of new merchandise, and they will be open for business Friday morning. He noted they will have more space for display of merchandise than they had in their old building and he feels the move will make it possible for them to serve their customers better.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 28

Deadline for voters to register will be Friday, since the County Tax Office will be closed Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 27 and 28. The new deadline is an extension of the former Jan. 31 deadline. The State Legislature passed a bill extending the time for voter registration to Feb. 28.

Public Schools Week March 1-5

Next week is Public Schools Week in Texas and patrons and friends of Bronte School are invited to visit during the week.

Mexican Supper, Hootenanny Set

Bronte Band Boosters Club will sponsor a Mexican Supper and Hootenanny Saturday night, March 6. The supper will be served in the school lunchroom and will feature a variety of Mexican food items. Serving will begin at 5:30 p.m. The Hootenanny will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium and a large number of performers are expected to be on hand to entertain the crowd. Booster Club members are asking everyone to mark the March 6 date on their calendars and make plans to attend the supper and program. The club is trying to raise enough money to make final payment on band instruments and other equipment bought for the band. They have conducted rummage sales and other activities to finance their projects. The Band Boosters promise a good meal and plenty of good music for everybody who attends.

BAND BOOSTERS TO MEET

The Band Booster Club will meet Monday, March 1, at 7 p.m. in the band hall. All members are urged to be present. Mr. and Mrs. Noah Pruitt Jr. spent the weekend for Feb. 13 and 14 in Waco visiting their daughter, Norma, who is a student at Baylor University. They also visited in Dallas with the Frances Pruitts and the Daniel Scotts.

FB Membership Drive Planned

Coke County Farm Bureau will have a membership drive starting Saturday. The drive will be launched Saturday at 8 a.m. when directors will meet at the Hiway Cafe in Robert Lee for a breakfast. Following the breakfast when final plans for the drive will be made, the workers will begin their drive for members for the farm and ranch organization. The directors will work all day Saturday and continue the drive all next week. Officers of the local organization asked that everyone in Coke County who is interested in the agricultural situation in the county, state and nation to consider membership in the Farm Bureau.

Pancake Supper Set at Robert Lee

Robert Lee-Silver Lions and Coke County 4-H Clubs will hold their annual Pancake Supper at the Robert Lee School cafeteria on Friday, March 5. Serving will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Admission price will be \$1 for adults and 75 cents for students. A meal of hot buttered pancakes with syrup, bacon, coffee and milk will be served. A Talent Show will begin at 6:30 p.m. and continue until 10 p.m. in the school auditorium. Entertainers who would like to enter are asked to contact Jack Denman, Garland Davis or Durwood Mumford, all of Robert Lee, as soon as possible. Proceeds from the supper will be used for community projects by the Lions and 4-H Clubs. The Rev. Bill Beatty is president of the Lions Club and the 4-H Club supervisors are Mrs. Fay C. Rose and Sterling Lindsey, Coke County Extension Agents. Members of 4-H Clubs are now conducting an advance ticket sale in Bronte and Robert Lee.

Bronte Pee Wee Girls Win Wingate Tourney

Bronte's girls Pee Wee basketball team won the Wingate tournament for the second time in a row last weekend, when they took three straight games. They downed Blackwell, 49-7, Butterfield, 22-15, and Jim Ned, 29-18. The boys Pee Wee team lost two straight and were eliminated before the finals. In the game with Blackwell Shelley Cumble was high pointer with 15, Leah Barbee had 15, Susie Collins and Debbie Brown, 6 each, and Karen Arrott and Shelene Tidwell 2 each. Scoring in the game with Butterfield was done by Barbee with 12 and Cumble with 10. In the game for the championship trophy, with Jim Ned, Barbee was high pointer with 14, Cumble made 11, and Collins had 4. **Boys Games**
The boys lost their first game to Blackwell, 29-17. James Brun-