

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

Single Copy 50¢



(USPS 467-480)
(ISSN 8750-197X)

Vol. 125, No. 42

Friday, May 3, 2013

Fort Chadbourne honored as SWCD Friend of Conservation

The Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) recognized the Fort Chadbourne Foundation as their 2012 Friend of Conservation recently. They were honored at a banquet held in Wall, Texas, where they were treated to a tasty steak dinner and received a plaque and sign to display their award.

In 1877, Thomas and Lucinda Odom purchased Fort Chadbourne and the surrounding land to establish Chadbourne Ranch. Garland Richards is an eighth generation descendant and owner of the Chadbourne Ranch. Garland and his wife Lana organized the Fort Chadbourne Foundation in 1999 to preserve and restore the Fort itself for posterity. Numerous educational field days, historical reenactments, events, tours, and benefits are hosted annually. In addition, the Fort is open to the public on a daily basis.

Active cooperation between Coke County SWCD and Fort

Chadbourne Foundation and Water Conservation began in 2007. The SWCD District (SWCD) recognized the Fort Chadbourne Foundation as their 2012 Friend of Conservation recently. They were honored at a banquet held in Wall, Texas, where they were treated to a tasty steak dinner and received a plaque and sign to display their award.

Garland, Lana, and the others believe in the importance of teaching kids about history and their ties to the land. In 2010, the Fort became an ideal setting where Bronte and Robert Lee 5th and 6th graders gathered for a fun-filled day focusing on soil and water conservation. Garland, Lana, Ann and Brent scurried about preparing for 90 students and 25 volunteers. They welcomed the group with open arms and the day was perfect. In addition to the preparation, they hosted a station to share the amazing history of Fort Chadbourne.

Fort Chadbourne hosted the Zone 2 Cultural Resources Training in 2011 for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The



Fort Chadbourne Honored by SWCD! Fort Chadbourne Foundation received the Friend of Conservation award from the Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District recently. Shown are (from left) Craig Demere, Director of the Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Lana, Garland, Ann Pate, Director/Researcher, Brent Bryan, Maintenance/Groundskeeper, and Dan Caldwell, Fort Chadbourne Volunteer.

Fort Chadbourne Days Living History Event is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 2013, from 9 am to 4 pm at Fort Chadbourne. This event allows visitors to experience life on the frontier and promises to be fun for the entire family. It offers live entertainment, WTRC chuckwagon, and food vendors. Admission is free, but donations are gladly accepted.

For more information, call (325) 743-2555. Fort Chadbourne is located 12 miles north of Bronte on Highway 277.

Fort quickly proved to be the perfect setting for the training. The artifacts and ruins provided an outdoor classroom approach. Garland's expertise, coupled with his knowledge of the fort's history made the training both enjoyable and informative.

October 2012 saw Coke County 5th & 6th grade students back at Fort Chadbourne eager to learn "Where Does Your Water Shed" during the Coke County Conservation Day. Garland enjoys sharing his stories about the fort and how deep his roots extend, especially to a young audience whose roots also lie in Coke County.

Mrs. Ann Pate co-hosted the tour of the new visitors' center during Conservation Day 2012. Ann's knowledge was exceptional. Coke County is very fortunate to have such an interesting and valuable museum loaded with history of REAL "Cowboys and Indians."

The Coke County SWCD is pleased to call the Fort Chadbourne Foundation their Friend of Conservation and is looking forward to many more years of cooperation.

Congratulations to the Fort Chadbourne Foundation!

Early voting continues through May 7 in School Board elections

Both the Bronte and Robert Lee Independent School Districts will elect two trustees for their Boards on May 11, 2013. Early voting in these elections began Monday, April 29, 2013, and continues through Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

Voters in the Bronte ISD election may vote in the Superintendent's office at the school Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm.

Voters in the Robert Lee ISD election may vote in the Coke County Clerk's office in the Coke County Courthouse Mondays through Thursdays 8 am to 5 pm and 8 am to 1 pm on Fridays.

On the ballot for Robert Lee ISD are incumbents Beverly Sinclair and Tracy Allen. They are joined on the ballot by Erin Oleksiuk and Crystal Stanford.

On the ballot for Bronte ISD are incumbents Kay Styles and Shane Kelton. They are joined on the ballot by Jeanna Lee.

Bronte City-Wide Garage Sale set

It's time again for the annual City-Wide Garage Sale. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 4, at 8 am.

City maps will be given away the day of the garage sales. This is a great opportunity to recycle, reuse and reduce unwanted items in your closets and storage items.

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

Relay for Life set for May 17-18

The Relay for Life of Tom Green County will be held May 17-18 from 7pm until 7 am at the LeGrand Sports Complex in San Angelo. The theme this year is "A Century of Cures-Color Us Cancer Free." A team of Robert Lee ladies called 'The Golden Girls' will be participating in the relay. Anyone interested in donating, or participating in the relay as a survivor, caregiver or a participant, please let captains Robin Allen or Pam Millican know. Robin can be reached at 763-7305 and Pam at 473-1027.



Shoot Winner! Beau Grigg (center) was the overall winner at the Trap Shoot held Saturday, April 20, 2013, in Bronte. The event benefited the Bronte Baptist RAs. Shown with Beau are Martin DeLaGarza (left) and Ray Barnett.