

- 1 set (16 colors) Crayola brand watercolors *
- 1 package Lysol or Clorox antibacterial wipes
- 1 headphones *
- * Please put your child's name on these items
- 2nd Grade**
- 1 black 1" 3 ring binder with clear plastic cover
- 1 white 1" 3 ring binder with clear plastic cover
- 6 plastic folders with brads and pockets in the following colors (one of each color): blue, green, yellow, orange, red, purple
- 1 spiral notebook (wide ruled) *
- 2 Kleenex tissue boxes
- 1 plastic supply box (no zippers) *
- 2 12 count Ticonderoga #2 pencils
- 2 Crayola brand crayons (24 count)
- 4 Expo markers *
- 1 Fiskar 5" pointed tip scissors *
- 4 Elmer's glue sticks
- 2 pink erasers
- 1 12 oz Germ-x original or Purell Advanced Clean Scent hand sanitizers (no aloe infused)
- 2 canisters of Lysol or Clorox antibacterial wipes
- 1 box of gallon ziplog bags
- 1 box of quart ziploc bags
- 1 headphones *
- * Please put your child's name on these items
- 3rd - 6th Grades**
- 2 12 count #2 Ticonderoga pencils
- 2 boxes of tissues
- 6 assorted color folders with



All Star! Braylee Hood, a 2022 graduate of Robert Lee High School, recently attended the Texas Sixman Coaches Association All Star Week for basketball. Her team, the West, won 74 - 32. Braylee was also named the Offensive MVP and was awarded the Danny James TSMCA Scholarship.



Degrees! During the 2022 Texas State FFA Convention Robert Lee FFA members Abbigayle Smith (far left) and Kailey Bradshaw earned their Lone Star Degrees. Luke Sellers, RLISD ag teacher, also received an honorary Lone Star Degree.

- pockets (5-Star)
- 1 3 ring binder with clear plastic pocket on front
- 3 composition notebooks
- 4 Elmer's glue sticks
- 2 boxes of 24 count Crayola brand crayons
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer
- 4 dry erase Expo brand markers (black or blue)
- 2 packs of pink erasers
- 1 7" pointed scissors
- 1 pencil bag (no pencil boxes)
- 1 pair of earbuds or headphones

Prized Fibers

By Julia Robinson
At times the fabric of Texas' economy has been 100% cotton. The availability of cotton products, though, belies a complicated transformation. "Blood, sweat and tears," says Kirk Tidwell, a cotton farmer in Lamesa, about halfway between Lubbock and Midland. "There's a lot of tears sometimes. "There's just so much risk; we don't know from the day we plant it if it's ever going to make it to harvest or not," says Tidwell, who also serves on the board of directors at Lyntegar Electric Cooperative. "We may lose it to a hailstorm or a sandstorm or an early freeze. We're always just hopeful." That cotton-hope blend - formed by a lot of hard work and a little luck - has not frayed much over two centuries. Times are still tough for cotton farmers, but cotton gins are still going. Texas had 4,300 gins in 1900; 185 operate today, according to the Texas Cotton Ginners' Association.

"I would guess half of those are on the way out," says Jerry Harris, general manager of King Mesa Gin in Lamesa. "As the number of gins go down, the number of bales ginned stays the same or goes up," Harris says as 18-wheelers pull onto scales with round bales bound in colorful plastic. "There used to be a gin every 6 miles because that's as far as people wanted to carry their crop, but now people will come hundreds of miles with a crop." Spanish missionaries were the

first to raise cotton in Texas. By 1821, Anglo colonists turned to the crop in earnest, reaping profits and building an industry by relying on the labor of enslaved people. Cotton drove the state's economy until the 20th century. Today it thrives in several areas of the state, and the South Plains region around Lubbock, where Tidwell farms, devotes more land to growing cotton than any other part of the world - as much as 3 million acres some years.

(Continued on page 7)

...Hay production

(Continued from page 3)
"Hay production conditions are better in the eastern part of the state, but they're still not great," Tracy Tomascik, Texas Farm Bureau associate director of Commodity and Regulatory Activities, said. "When purchasing hay or growing your own hay, it's important to test the bales for nutritional value, especially this year." The nutritional value of the hay will help ranchers better determine what additional supplementation is needed.

"Farmers and ranchers are seeing major crop loss and forage loss from widespread drought conditions," Tomascik said. "Hay production and pasture conditions are bleak. All of Texas needs several good soaking rains." With the continued dry conditions, there is elevated risk for wildfires. More than 210 counties are currently under a burn ban, and Texas A&M Forest Service officials note the dry vegetation could lead to more wildfire activity across the state.

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SPECIAL OIL & GAS SECTION

Coke County Water Supply Corporation awarded grant

The Texas Water Development Board approved a grant to help fund water line installation on December 17. The Texas Water Development Board is the state agency responsible for the development and construction of water supply projects. The grant will be used to fund the construction of water supply projects in the area of the water supply project. The grant will be used to fund the construction of water supply projects in the area of the water supply project.

Special Government Section

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2019 Year in Review Issue

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous New Year!

Saluting the Robert Lee High School Class of 2020

Saluting the Blackwell High School Class of 2020

Confirmed Cases of Covid-19 in Texas

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