



By James R. Jackson

AgriLIFE EXTENSION Agent

### Trees

Over the past few weeks, a number of homeowners have contacted my office asking about trees. Many of the symptoms that we are seeing today are indirectly related to last year's drought. It is common for a tree to mask an injury for a few years because of drought, insects or an outside wound and then show symptoms of what has happened well after the injury occurred.

In analyzing a trees response to a drought it is critical to remember that different trees respond different ways due to their genetics. It is also important to remember that many of the symptoms that we are seeing today are not directly related to the drought, however, due to the drought weakening the trees defenses. Trees have difficulty defending the attacks that they can typically defend against in a year when moisture is adequate.

As a result of inadequate moisture many trees drop their leaves, this is a self defense mechanism to insufficient moisture and once the canopy is thinned the tree is more susceptible of getting sunscald. This is an condition that can occur when the temperature rises above 100 degrees and bark is exposed to direct sunlight, this condition can lead to the bark of the tree reaching 125 degrees or above, which causes nutrient transport up and down the trunk to slow down. A second result of the thinning of leaves is the decline in leaf area, which is due to a decrease in the leaf surface area available to gather sunlight and conduct photosynthesis.

Trees that are the most susceptible to the dry conditions are the trees that have been planted in the past five years. To give these trees additional support it is beneficial to wrap the trunk in cardboard or a burlap sack to keep the temperature of the trunk down, by keeping the trunk temperature down it allows the tree to continue to transport nutrients up and down the trunk. Another beneficial practice is putting mulch down around the base of the tree. A good rule of thumb for this practice is a 4-6 foot diameter around the trunk and 2-4 inches deep. This practice maintains soil moisture, reduces competition among plants for the moisture at the base of the tree, as the mulch breaks down it adds organic matter to the area. Mulch can be acquired at the San Angelo or Abilene recycling centers for little to no cost depending on your willingness to load it and your specifications, (for trees the course double chopped mulch is adequate).

When watering trees in Coke County, it is a fine balance in keeping the tree healthy and not wasting the water. It is recommended to use a soaker hose or drip irrigation around the drip line of the tree. A general rule is to water the older trees every few weeks to where there is soil moisture 6-10 inches deep and water the younger trees every week. When watering trees it is beneficial to let the area dry out between watering to prevent the area around the tree from becoming anaerobic.

For more information about tree care please visit: <http://essmextension.tamu.edu/treecarekit/> or feel free to call or come by the County Extension Office.

### West Texas Rehab Silver Spur Ball set for July 27

Boot scootin' dance music by Johnny Dickinson and Big Country, a sampling of snack foods from A Catered Affair and more than 100 silent auction items will be featured July 27th at the 22nd annual Silver Spur Ball benefiting West Texas Rehabilitation Center.

Scheduled at the McNease Convention Center, the event also will include casino games and drawings for a gun and a hand-stitched, double-size quilt.

Tickets are available at the Rehab Center. Tables for ten are available on a first come, first served basis.

In 21 years, the Silver Spur Ball has raised more than \$470,000 for the Center, thanks to the generous support of sponsors, donors and those who attend each year. Event underwriting is being provided by West Central Wireless, Scott & White Health Plan, Superior Services, Sam's Club, Hernandez Painting, Milford Engineering and Catholic Life Insurance. Additional funding is by JL Mercer Boot Co., Livestock Weekly, Lowe's Market, MedWay Home Health, Dierschke & Dierschke Realtors, Floors Unlimited, KENO Lawn

Service, Wal-Mart – Ballinger, San Angelo Standard-Times and A-B Distributing.

Singer/guitarist Johnny Dickinson fronts a five-piece band with a steel guitar, fiddle, bass and drums. A popular regional band, the group plays a mix of traditional and contemporary country music and western swing.

Volunteer hosts for the Spur event are Doodle Dankworth, Floyd and Dottie Frerich, Pat and Ruby McDonald, Mark and Lou

Ann Multer, Olen and Sandy Steele, John and Betty Jo Wilde, Quint and Linda Binns, all of San Angelo. Also, Hubert and Annette Frerich of Garden City, J.D. and Becky Gould of Carlsbad, Bobbye Lindley of Mertzon, Shawn and Jamie Glass of Lowake and Mike and Kathy Howard of Rowena. Honorary members include Steven Jennifer Hoelscher of San Angelo and Sweetie Willberg of Paint Rock.

Through its facilities in San Angelo, Abilene and Ozona, West Texas Rehab Center provides outpatient rehabilitation care each day to more than 500 children and adults who have experienced disabling illnesses or injuries. Events such as the Spur Ball make it possible for the Center to treat all who seek its services, regardless of their financial circumstance. For event or ticket information, call 325-223-6300 or visit [WestTexasRehab.org](http://WestTexasRehab.org).

### BRONTE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT PO Box 670, Bronte, Texas 76933

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Bronte ISD offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast is free; lunch costs are \$1.95 for grades PK-5th and \$2.20 for grades 6-12. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is free for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch.

**1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Complete one application to apply for free or reduced price meals. Use one Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to Phillip Ratliff at PO Box 670, Bronte, Texas 76933, phone (325) 473-2511 ext 7.

**2. Who can get free meals?** Children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly the Food Stamp Program) or TANF can get free meals regardless of your income. Your benefit letter from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is your documentation for free meals. If you have not already received a letter from your school stating that your household is eligible for free meals, you may take your HHSC benefit letter to your child nutrition office to be certified for free meals. If a member of your household is directly certified due to receiving SNAP or TANF benefits, all members of your household are eligible for free meals. If a child in your household is not included on the Letter of Direct Certification, sent to you by the SFA, or if you have questions, call the school at (325) 473-2511.

**3. Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced-price meals?** In most cases, no, however read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at (325) 473-2511 if you have questions or a member of your household is not listed on the letter. If your household does not receive SNAP or TANF, your children may still be eligible to receive free meals if your household income is less than the amounts listed on the federal income Eligibility Guidelines. Please complete the application and submit it to your child nutrition office. Head Start students, Even Start children, and most foster children may also qualify for free meals.

**4. Can foster children get free meals?** Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income.

**5. Can homeless, runaway or migrant children get free meals?** Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call Jackie Timmerman (325) 473-2511 to see if your child(ren) qualify.

**6. Who can get reduced price meals?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced-price limits on the Federal Income Chart.

**7. My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out another one?** Yes, your child's application is only good for the school year and for the first 30 operating days of the new school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.

**8. I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please fill out an application.

**9. Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.

**10. If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting SNAP, TANF or other benefits (such as unemployment benefits).

**11. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Alan Richey, PO Box 670, Bronte, TX 76933, phone (325) 473-2511 ext. 111.

**12. May I apply if someone in my household is not a US Citizen?** Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a US citizen to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

**13. Who should I include as members of my household?** You must include yourself and all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.

**14. What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime pay, include that amount as income. If you do not normally get overtime pay, do not include it as income.

**15. We are in the military; do we include our housing allowance as income?** If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.

**16. My spouse is deployed to a combat zone; is her combat pay counted as income?** No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of deployment, and it wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.

**17. My family need more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for other assistance benefits, dial 2-1-1.

If you have any other questions or need help, call (325) 473-2511. Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al telefono (325) 473-2511. Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: (325) 473-2511.

Sincerely,  
Phillip Ratliff  
Food Service Manager

# IVEY MOTOR COMPANY, INC.

- 2011 Dodge Ram 3500** #5175 **\$33,500**  
*Crew Cab Dually w/6.7 Cummins • Silver w/Charcoal Cloth*
- 2009 Ford F-250 Crew Cab XLT** #L059A **\$18,995**  
*Pale Adobe w/Tan Cloth • Powerstroke • Ready to Go!*
- 2012 Ford Focus SEL** #7229 **\$18,565**  
*Race Red w/Charcoal Int. • Great Mileage! Great Price!*
- 2011 Lincoln Town Car** #5173 **\$27,495**  
*Signature Limited • Satin Silver w/Medium Stone Leather!*
- 2011 Ford Fusion SE** #71-32 **\$16,995**  
*Steel Blue w/Charcoal Interior*
- 2009 Mercury Grand Marquis LS** #1201B **\$16,995**  
*White w/Light Stone Leather • Heated Seats*
- 2008 Mercury Mariner Premier** #L033B **\$15,995**  
*Charcoal w/Gray Leather • Gas Saver!*
- 2010 Ford Focus SE** #5170A **\$13,995**  
*Black w/Charcoal Interior • Only 28K Miles!*

- 2011 Ford Taurus SEL** #7131 **\$24,995**  
*Red Candy w/Stone Leather*
- 2008 Mercury Grand Marquis LS** #6423B **\$12,495**  
*Wedgewood Blue w/Tan Leather • Local Car!*

## 453-4561

Ask For:

Randy Flanagan • Jim Herring • Billy Wayne Roe