problems get worse never better. Teach children to turn water faucets off quickly and tightly after each use. A toilet leak can waster lots of water. Put a small amount of food coloring into the tank. If the color trickles into the bowl, there is a leak and repairs are needed.

Laundry:

Wait until you have a full load before washing items, or use a lower water level setting. Check garments to make sure they need washing. Don't wash clothes more often than necessary. Encourage children to change into play-clothes after school so that school-andplay-clothes can be worn several times. Siphon gray water from your washing machine into your yard.

Personal Care:

Urge family members to take 4 minute showers instead of tub baths. Turn off shower water while you apply soap to body, or lather hair and massage scalp. Turn water off while you shave and brush your teeth.

Dishwashing:

Wash only a full load of dishes in the dishwasher. A dishwasher uses about 9 to 13 gallons of water per cycle. Avoid unnecessary rinsing of dishes that go into the dishwasher for immediate washing. Scrape if necessary. When washing dishes by hand, use one pan of soapy water for washing and a second pan of hot water for rinsing. Rinsing in a pan requires less water than rinsing under a running faucet.

House Plants:

Use rinse water, gray water saved from bathing or clothes washing to water indoor plants. Do not use soapy water on indoor plants. It could damage them. Water indoor plants only when needed. Too much water can damage plants. Use water from dehumidifier to water plants.

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces Changes to CRP to Assist Producers Impacted by Severe Drought Conditions

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is modifying its Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) policies to help those affected by sustained drought conditions. Throughout this year of extreme weather, USDA has supported and delivered assistance to farmers, ranchers, and rural communities across the country.

"We continue to do all we can to help thousands of farmers and ranchers in the southwestern United States who are struggling from drought," said Vilsack. "Many ranchers have been or will be forced to sell

livestock due to drought and USDA will do what we can to help our farmers and ranchers during these challenging times."

The policy changes influence FSA rules governing emergency grazing. The period normally allowed for emergency grazing lasts through Sept. 30, 2011. FSA is permitting farmers and ranchers in drought stricken states who have been approved for emergency grazing, including those in Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, to extend the emergency grazing period to Oct. 31, 2011, without an additional payment reduction.

Producers wishing to participate in emergency grazing must first request permission from the FSA county office by indicating the acreage to be grazed.

As a second condition designed to help livestock producers, FSA will allow producers nationwide to utilize harvested hay from expiring CRP acres when those acres are being prepared for fall seeded crops. Prior to this modification, all mechanically harvested hay was required to be destroyed. This change enables livestock producers to feed the hay that is mechanically harvested to their own livestock or to sell or donate hav. Consistent with existing policy for managed or emergency haying and grazing of eligible CRP acres, rental payments will be reduced by 25 percent for those utilizing this option.

"We are eager to do all we can in the face of this drought crisis across the southern plains," said FSA Administrator Bruce Nelson. "This has been one of the worst dry and hot spells since the Dust Bowl era of the '30s."

For further information about the Conservation Reserve Program and Emergency Haying and Grazing, producers are encouraged to visit their USDA Service Centers or go online to www.fsa.usda.gov. Search under Conservation Programs and Disaster Assistance.



drop box is located at

HOMETOWN HARDWARE

in Bronte.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The ROBERT LEE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL	L DISTRICT
meeting at6:00 PM, AUGUST 31, 2011	will hold a public CONFERENCE ROOM 119, ROBERT LEE in SCHOOL, 1323 HAMILTON STREET
ROBERT LEE, TEXAS	The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the
school district's budget that will determine the	tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$_1.04	_/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	\$44	/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	% increase	or	6	% (decrease)
Debt service	% increase	or	6	% (decrease)
Total expenditures	% increase	or	6	% (decrease)

<u>Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value</u> (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

Preceding lax year	Current Tax Year
{\$} 616998120	_{\$_} 59704800
§ 663065	s 1044013
\$ 421687168	s 230858799
\$_663065	\$_1044013
	\$_663065 \$_421687168

- "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
- ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
- *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$ 1270498

* Outstanding principal.

in the discussion is invited.

Comparison	of Proposed	Rates with	Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest <u>& Sinking Fund</u> *	<u>Total</u>	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	_{\$} 1.04	\$.44000	\$ 1.48000	_{\$} 14670	_{\$} 5417
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue &		7.4020	4.70050	40.070	0000
Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.04817	_{\$} .74039	\$ 1.78856	_{\$} 16.070	_{\$} 3288
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.04	\$.44000	\$ 1.48000	\$ 16.908	\$ 3153
* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.					

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

		_
	<u>Last Year</u>	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	_{\$} 51435	_{\$} 34871
Average Taxable Value of Residences	_{\$} 27626	_{\$} 23365
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.04
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ (125)	\$ 242.99
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 117.99

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is $^{1.54}$. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of $^{1.54}$.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s) \$ 1886662

Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s) \$ 5000