

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

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Friday, November 28, 2003

Bryan's Barn lights up holiday season

It's a foregone conclusion that the Christmas season is officially open when Bryan's Barn lights up. The Bryan family will throw the switch at 6 pm on Monday, Dec. 1 and bring to life that wonderland of color. They will be open to visitors through Dec. 31 from 6 to 10 pm each evening. Although admission to the Barn and surrounding grounds is free, donations are welcomed to defray expenses.

The Barn has become a local symbol of Christmas and will be seen by a huge number, including tour bus loads.

On Friday, Dec. 12, Robert Lee will hold its annual Downtown Open House. Most participating businesses will serve refreshments, some will serve lunch, greet visitors, and be decorated for Christmas. A later announcement will inform customers of drawings.

A parade is in the planning stage for after school and be led by that popular favorite, Santa Claus. If anyone wants to take part in the parade about 4:00, let's line up and back Santa downtown behind the courthouse. Bring your car, horse, dog, bicycle, -

whatever. After the parade Santa will visit in front of the courthouse and hear the children's wish list.

Christmas in Old Bronte

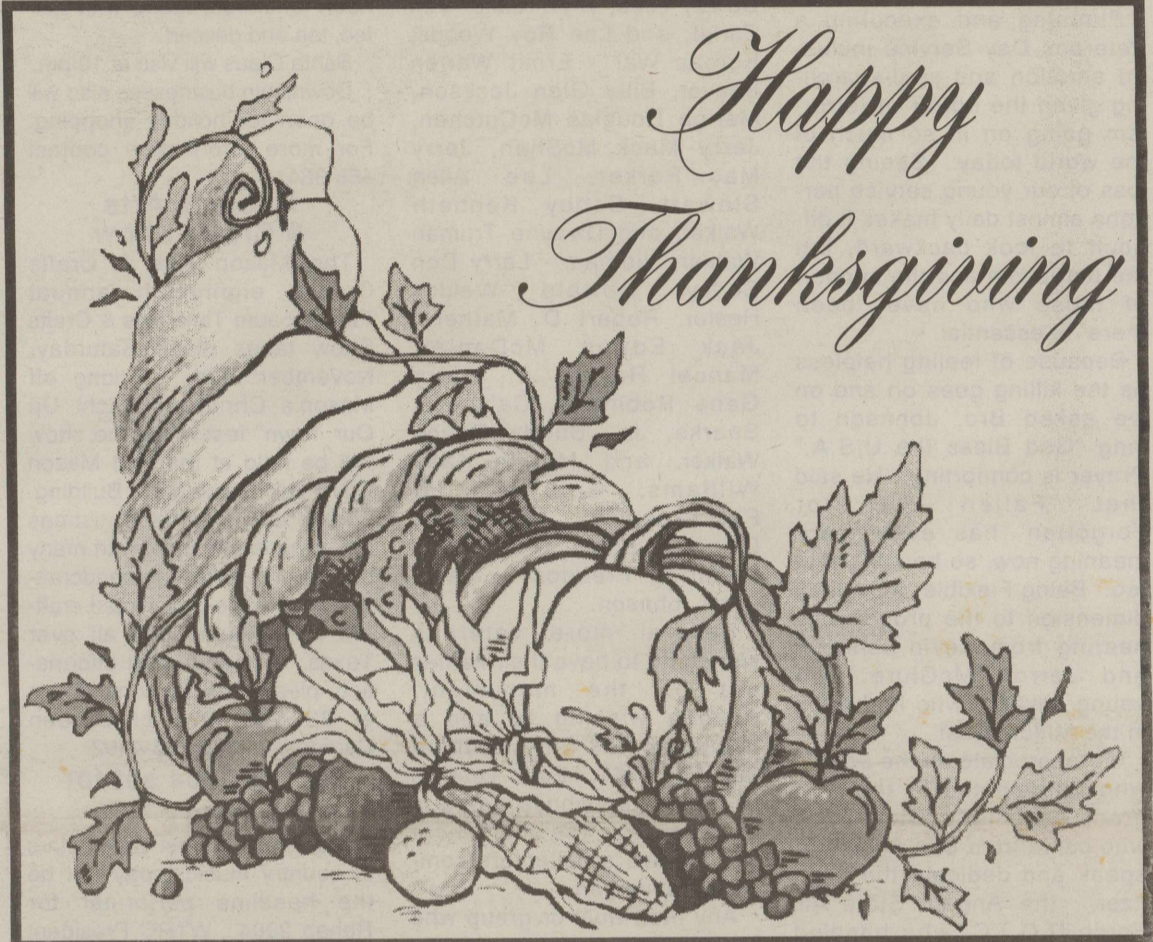
Plans for Christmas in Old Bronte are underway. The event is scheduled to take place on Thursday, December 18th. The festivities will begin at 5 pm with Santa leading the parade through downtown Bronte. The parade should be rather large since the school will be participating.

After the parade there will be plenty to see and do. Santa will be ready to take pictures with all the boys and girls. Local clubs and organizations are welcomed to participate. For more information call Annie Gill at 743-2555.

Christmas Greetings set for December 19

It is time once again for Christmas Greetings! The Observer/Enterprise would like to remind businesses and individuals wishing to place a Christmas greeting in the newspaper to call or stop by and choose your greeting for the December 19th paper.

Deadline for this year's greetings is Tuesday, December 16. For more infor-



mation or to place an ad, contact the office at 453-2433.

Courthouse closed for holiday

The Coke County courthouse will be closed for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Nov. 28. Business hours will resume on Monday, Dec. 1.

Hanging of the Greens tradition continues

Robert Lee Baptist Church will continue a special tradition called the "Hanging of the Greens" on Sunday morning, November 30th. This old English custom is the decorating of one's home with evergreens and other festive trappings for Advent and Christmas. We will celebrate the Holy Season with the decorating of God's house on this the first Sunday morning in Advent. Join us as we sing and celebrate the Advent of our Lord.

Old Jail book ready for distribution December 2

A slice of Coke County is ready for distribution and sale on Tuesday, December 2, in the Commissioners Courtroom at the Coke County Courthouse. Bonita Copeland's A History of the Old Books County Jail and Sheriffs with Related Facts and Tales had a pre-sale of some two hundred and fifty books. Those who have pre-

paid can take this opportunity to pick up their copy.

The books will also be sold on this date. Mrs. Copeland has dedicated the sale of these books to the Old Jail preservation costs. Those who bought books during the pre-sale and arranged for mailing will be receiving their books in the mail shortly.

The books will also be available during Open House on December 12 at the Coke County Courthouse.

Red Hat Society meeting slated

The Coke County Red Hat Society will meet at 11:00 am on Tuesday, December 2nd at Hidalgo's, Hwy. 277 in Bronte. You are welcome to join this group where there is fun after fifty (and before) for women of all walks of life.

Holiday closing

In observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday, the Robert Lee City Hall will be closed November 27-28. The City Landfill will be closed on Saturday, November 29th. Have a safe Thanksgiving Holiday.

2004 Rec Hall bookings to begin January 5

To make reservations for the Coke County Rec Halls either in Bronte or Robert Lee, please call 453-2641 or come by the Judge's office at the Courthouse in Robert Lee.

The first day bookings will be accepted for either rec hall for 2004 will be January 5, 2004, at 7 am at the Coke County

Courthouse.

Abilene Christmas arts and crafts festival set

The 11th annual Abilene Christmas Arts and Crafts Festival will be held November 29th and 30th in the Abilene Civic Center. Exhibitors from throughout the Southwest will fill the foyer and main exhibit hall with original art, limited edition prints and handcrafted items. Hours for the festival are Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday from noon to 5 pm. There is no admission charge.

SA Writers' Club

Christmas party slated
The San Angelo Writers' Club will meet for their annual Christmas party at 6 pm Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the Golden Corral, 1601 Knickerbocker Road, San Angelo.

Those attending are asked to bring a Christmas story, poem or song to read or perform. There will also be an election of officers for the upcoming year.

Reservations are not necessary for the Dutch-treat dinner, and guests are welcome. For more information, contact Barbara Barton, 949-7303.

Gospel Ministry for Children needs items

San Angelo's Gospel Ministry for Children needs small items such as toys, clothes, etc. for funds to repair their building. A drop box will be located at 318 E. 4th Street, Robert Lee, for these donations. For more information, call 453-2930.



Bro. Morris Johnson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Bronte, led the National Anthem at the Veterans' Day Service Saturday, November 15, 2003. The service was held at the Coke County Veterans' Memorial Plaza in Bronte. Bro. Morris also sang "God Bless the USA."

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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**Veterans' Day Service
attracts large crowd**

By Loretha Knight

Planning and executing a Veterans Day Service included emotion and soul-searching given the horror of terrorism going on in so much of the world today. Seeing the loss of our young service persons almost daily makes it difficult to look backward, but the patriotism and the support of those who have "been there" is essential.

Because of feeling helpless as the killing goes on and on we asked Bro. Johnson to sing "God Bless the U.S.A." Prayer is comforting. He said that "Fallen But Not Forgotten" has even more meaning now, so he sang that too. Being Flexible, we added dimension to the program by hearing from Kevin Johnson and Jerrod McClure, two young soldiers who had been in the Middle East.

We appreciate all the people who participated in the program especially Dick Funk who came from San Angelo to speak and dedicate the howitzer, the Angelo State Air Force R.O.T.C. who handled the colors very well, Mr. George Tomes who played Taps, and Judge Roy Blair who said the opening prayer.

The historical Ft. Chadbourne Cavalry began the program when they shot the Civil War Cannon and represented a time when soldiers at a row of forts protected Americans who were going west. As a whole we honored our country by revering the heroes whose names are on the monument.

This veterans celebration took on an aura of holding high the flag, remembering the valiant soldiers of the past and promoting the hope and faith for victory over terrorism in the future.

These newly engraved names were announced. They included: World War I - Benjamin Horace Boykin, William Ernest Burns, Buck T. Denson, Frank Kessie, Ed Stevens, and McNeill Wylie; World War II - Odis Dugee Adams, Leonard B. Basquez, Zeddie D. Beal, Mel Billings, Carl Blair, Benjamin Alfred Boykin, Douglas Buford, Tom Brown, Leland Carlton, K. C. Collier, Elmer A. Davis, Richmond Dewain Garrett, Lester Ray Jackson, Houston A. Jolly, Cleveland Robert Kirchman, Warren Neal McWilliams, Paul P. Minjarez, James Gray Newton, William Ernest Newton, Jr., Eddie B. Patterson, Leo Ira Perkins, Bill Tom Roach, A. Roy Robinson, James H. Saunders, Rex D. Saunders,

W. K. "Ajax" Simpson, Charles Edwin Sims, Hollis Stevens, Dale G. Thompson, Edward Dewey Tubb, J. W. "Jake" Van Zandt, and Lee Roy Woods; Korean War - Ermit Warren Beaver, Billy Glen Jackson, Marlon Douglas McCutchen, Jerry Mack McShan, Jerry Mac Parker, Lee Allen Stewart, Bobby Kenneth Walker, and Dwayne Truman Walker; Vietnam - Larry Don Corley, Donald Weldon Hester, Robert D. Mathers, Jack Edwyn McDaniel, Manuel Reyes, Jr., Larry Gene Robinson, Calvin L. Sparks, Jr., Buddy Royce Walker, and Marvin Clay Williams; Gulf War & Peacekeeping - Amanda N. Dunn; and Operation Enduring Freedom - Kevin Allen Johnson.

Several more veterans signed up to have their names put on the monument. Anyone wishing to add a name can call Ettie Hubbard 325/473-3761. Each veteran or the family whose name is engraved on the monument will receive a collectors commemorative pen.

Any individual or group who would like to help with keeping the flowers on the monument fresh would be welcomed. Contact any member of the committee for a convenient time or for more information.

**Miles Arts and
Crafts Fair**

The annual Christmas in Miles Arts and Crafts Fair will be held Saturday, Nov. 29 from 9 am to 5 pm at the Weatherby Hall in downtown Miles.

More than 30 vendors will dis-

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Gift Items**

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Dorthey Pruitt welcomed the audience and introduced the platform guests at the Veterans' Day Service Saturday, November 15, 2003. The service was held at the Coke County Veterans' Memorial Plaza in Bronte. Mrs. Pruitt also read the most recent names added to the memorial.

play such items as jewelry, woodcrafts and furniture, leather goods, Christmas decorations, Kolaches, jams and jellies, pecans, peanut butter fudge, clothes, purses, crocheted items and more.

The Miles Library will have a free book give-away at the Hall, and a mini-garage sale will raise funds for animal welfare.

Members of the United Methodist Church will serve a noon luncheon, along with coffee, tea and dessert.

Santa Claus will visit at 10 am.

Downtown businesses also will be open for holiday shopping. For more information contact 468-3841.

**Mason's Arts
& Crafts Show**

The Mason Arts & Crafts Guild's eighteenth annual Tannenbaum Time Arts & Crafts Show takes place Saturday, November 29th. Kicking off Mason's Christmas "Light Up Our Town" festivities, the show will be held at the Fort Mason City Park Community Building. This is a wonderful Christmas shopping experience, with many booths of outstanding handcrafted items made by talented crafters from Mason and all over Texas. For additional information, please call Ramona Voges at 325-258-4623 or Doreen Cardenas at 325-265-4302.

**Rehab 2004 set for
January 17**

One of the hottest young stars in country music today will be the headline performer for Rehab 2004. WTRC President



and CEO, Woody Gilliland, announced recently that Joe Nichols will perform at the 34th annual telethon to benefit the West Texas Rehabilitation Center.

Rehab 2004 will be Saturday, January 17th originating from the Abilene Civic Center. The five-hour live show that begins at 7 pm will be broadcast in 10 television markets in Texas and portions of Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Joining Joe Nichols at Rehab 2004 will be Charlie Chase, Red Steagall, and regulars Bill and Susan Hayes, Anacani, and Brad Maule.

The telethon is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Rehab with a goal to raise over \$1 million in support of the Rehab's mission, to improve the quality of life of those served regardless of their financial circumstances.

**Churches of
Coke County**

Invite You to Worship

Emmanuel Pentecostal
PO Box 683 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy
Robert Lee

(325) 453-2360
Rev. Ray Aldridge, Pastor
Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

First Baptist Church
424 S. Washington • Bronte

(325) 473-2331
Bro. Morris Johnson, Pastor
Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,
10:55 am Worship, 6 pm Youth
and Worship

Wednesday 7 pm Prayer Meeting
First United Methodist Church
PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne
Robert Lee

(325) 453-2417
Rev. Steve Rowe, Pastor
Sun. 10 am Sunday School
11 am Worship

Wed. 7 pm Choir
Iglesia Bautista Bethel
101 Houston • Robert Lee

(325) 453-5003 • 453-2296
Pastor: Basilio Esquivel
Sun. 9:45, 11:00, & 11:30 am
& 6 pm, Wednesday 7 pm

Northside Church of Christ
PO Box 388 • 9th & Chadbourne
Robert Lee

(325) 453-2619 or 453-2270
Tommy Williams, Minister
Services: Sun. 10 am & 6 pm;
Wed. 7 pm

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic
Church**
601 W. 10th, Robert Lee

(325) 365-2687
Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor
Sat. 6 pm

Pecan Baptist
PO Box 542 • 12 miles West of Robert Lee
on Sterling City Hwy

(325) 453-4645
Rev. Dale Patterson, Pastor
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
11 am & 7 pm, Worship

Robert Lee Baptist Church
PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th

(325) 453-2724
Bro. Mike Poye, Pastor
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
11 am & 7 pm, Worship

Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting
Southside Church of Christ
PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston
Robert Lee

(325) 453-2176
Frank J. Daniels, Preacher
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
11 am & 6 pm, Worship

Wed. 7 pm, Worship
Tennyson Baptist Church
Hwy 277 • Tennyson

(325) 482-0663
Sun. 10:00 am, Sunday School
11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship
Victory Assembly of God
PO Box 638 • 6th & Houston
Robert Lee

(325) 453-2208
Rev. Erma Johnson, Pastor
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship
Wed. 6 pm, Prayer Meeting

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DARYL COPELAND, OWNER 453-2980

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Lunch Special will be
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\$7.50 (includes tea or water).**

Drennans 4-H accomplishments recognized

Brittni and Carson Drennan of Welch were both recognized for their accomplishments at the Dawson County 4-H Awards Banquet held recently in Lamesa.

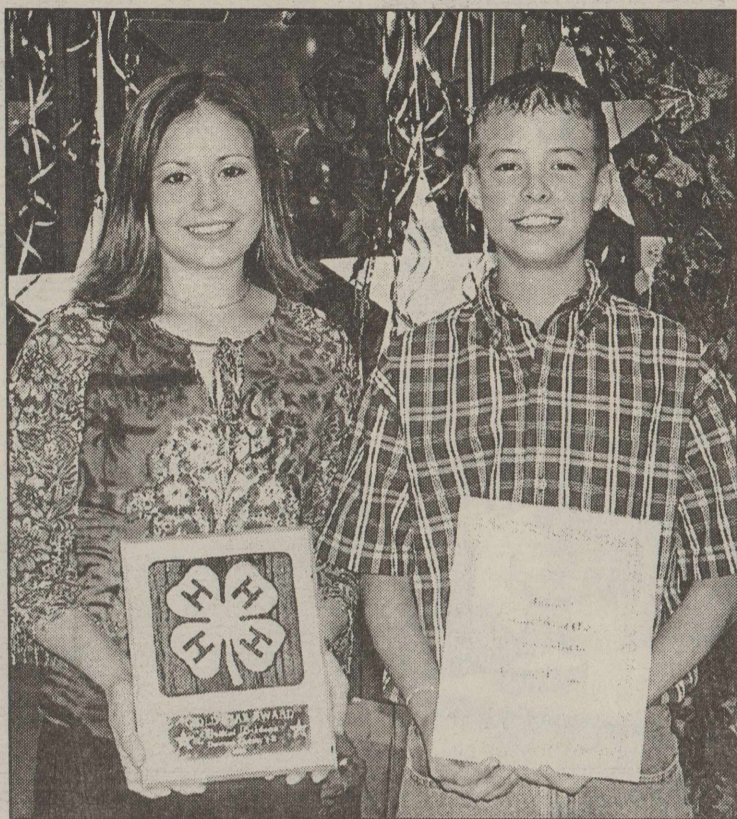
Brittni, who currently serves as president of the Welch 4-H Club and secretary/treasurer of the Dawson County 4-H Council was recognized as winner of the 2003 Gold Star Award - one of the highest awards a 4-Her can earn. Brittni has been in 4-H for eight years and has held various other offices throughout her 4-H career. She has been involved in numerous projects and competed on the county and district levels in Food & Nutrition, Consumer Decision Making, Shooting Sports Target Rifle placing 4th High Individual District II in 2003, Drama, Clothing & Textiles in Construction and Fashion Design, Record Book, Lambs and Goats. She has been honored as the Outstanding Junior and Junior II Savings Bond winner, as well as Dawson County Senior Lamb Showmanship in 2003. And several Junior Showmanship awards. In September Brittni exhibited the Grand Champion Meat Goat in the Dawson County Fair. Early this year Brittni exhibited the 5th place Goat at the Houston Jr. Livestock Show and the 6th place Southdown Lamb in the San Antonio Jr. Livestock Show and has had various places at the local and county shows.

Brittni is a sophomore at Dawson I.S.D. where she is cheerleader, and participates in cross country, basketball, One Act Play and UIL, FFA, and selected Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Carson was named as this year's winner of the Junior II \$50 Savings Bond. This is the fourth consecutive year for him to win the Junior I and Junior II Savings Bond Awards. He currently serves as Vice President of the Welch 4-H Club and Junior Delegate to the Dawson County 4-H Council. He has been as member of 4-H for six years and has been involved in numerous projects and competed at the county and district levels in Food & Nutrition, Shooting Sports Target Rifle winning District II 2nd High Individual in 2001, Drama, Record Book, and Lambs and Goats. He had the 10th place Southdown Lamb at San Antonio in 2003 and has exhibited several Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Goats at the local and county shows. He was Junior Goat Showman in 2002 & 2003 in Welch. Carson has attended 4-H Leadership Camp in Levelland the past three years.

Carson is in eighth grade at Dawson I.S.D. He participates in cross country, football, basketball, track, One Act Play and UIL, and FFA.

Also, Grant Drennan was winner of the Alumni Award, which goes to a parent or leader who was a 4-H member in the past and has continued to be involved in 4-H as an adult. Grant represents Dawson County 4-H on the Livestock Show Board. He has served as a Shooting



Brittni and Carson Drennan

Sports project leader and has served in various capacities on the Dawson County Fair Association board.

Mindi Drennan was recognized as the Distinguished Leader Award winner from Dawson County. Mindi was presented with that award in August at the South Plains 4-H Adult Leaders' Association meeting. Currently chairman of the 4-H Development Committee for Dawson County, Mindi has been a leader in the Welch 4-H Club and on the Program Development Committee. She also has been an active volunteer in numerous 4-H activities and events.

Grant and Mindi were the

Dawson County Spur Award winners in 2001.

The Drennan family are members of the Welch Baptist Church.

Brittni and Carson are the children of Mindi (McCabe) & Grant Drennan of Welch. Their grandparents are Joyce & Louie Drennan of Welch, Dolores & Ray Seal of Robert Lee and the late Fred "Twister" McCabe, Jr. Great-grandparents are Jealdene "Toad" Medlin of Welch and the late Leora & Fred McCabe of Robert Lee. Other extended family members include Debbie & Melvin McCabe, Andrew & Trenton of Robert Lee.

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- 2003 Ford Mustang** \$13,995
*Red Fire • V6 Automatic • PW/PL/CD
14,000 Miles • Rally Package*
- 2000 Crew Cab 4x4 Dually** \$26,995
*F-350 • Powerstroke • Lariat • 32,000 Miles
Excellent Condition • Island Blue w/Leather Interior*
- 2003 F-150 Super Crew** \$18,495
*White w/Tan Cloth Interior • XLT • 5.4 V8
Towing Package • Automatic • Excellent Condition!*
- 2000 Lincoln Town Car** \$13,995
*White w/Charcoal Leather Interior • 6 Disc CD
54,000 Miles • Excellent Condition!*
- 1999 Dodge Ram 1500** \$11,995
*Red w/gray interior • Quad Cab • V8 •
56,000 Miles • Nice Truck!*
- 2003 F-150 Super Crew XLT** \$21,995
*White w/tan interior • V8 • 28,000 Miles
CD Player •*
- 2003 Ford Taurus SES** \$13,995
*Two to Choose From! One is tan - One is white!
15,000 Miles on Each! Come & Get Them!*

Ask For: **453-4561**
Randy Flanagan • Buck Duncan • Billy Wayne Roe

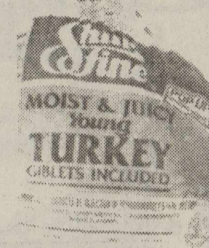
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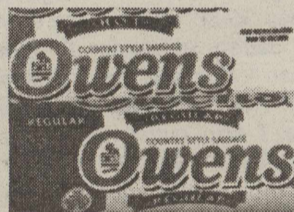
With Purchase of \$20
or More. Excludes Tobacco
Products. Limit 1,
Thereafter 59¢ Lb.

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Celery

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Sausage

2 Lb. Roll **\$2.99**

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4.25-5 Lb. Bag **\$.69**



Shank Portion • Cook's Bone In



Ham

Lb. **\$.99**

Butt
Portion Ham
Lb. \$1.19

Shurfine Grade A
Large Eggs

Dozen **\$.89**

Golden Ripe
Bananas

Lb. **\$.29**



**Coca Cola,
Sprite or
Dasani Water**

3 6 Pk 1/2 Liter Bottles **/\$5**

ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS



Robert Lee Care Center residents enjoy performances by the Robert Lee Baptist Church Team Kids the first Wednesday of each month.

Steers' b'ball results posted

On the 18th, the Robert Lee Steers varsity team lost to Forsan by a score of 51-38. Individual scoring was led by Cole Flanagan with 10; Phillip Arellano 9; Omar Saucedo 7; Ruben Torres 6; Lance Millican 3; Andy Mulkey 2 and Josh Conner 1.

The JV boys lost to Forsan by a score of 37-16. Leading scorer for Robert Lee was Clay Antilley with 6, followed by Kevin Honse 5, Vincent McClelland 3 and Branden Phillips 2.

Lady Steers' basketball results

On the 17th, the Robert Lee varsity lost to Forsan in overtime by a score of 36-40. Robert Lee scoring: Jessica Fluhmann 3; Monica Rodriguez 5; Tyler Lott 4; Julie Riley 1; Cara Eaton 8; Cassidy Wink 11; and Michele Sanchez 4.

On the 21st, the varsity girls

lost a close one to Coahoma 35-40. Robert Lee scoring: Fluhmann 4; Julia Cruz 4; Lott 2; Riley 2; Eaton 6; Wink 4 and Sanchez 13.

The Robert Lee JV won both their games. They won against Forsan 35-26. Robert Lee scoring: Jaden Alexander 2; Kyla Millican 4; Becca Skinner 8; Brettie Reed 7; Kelsy Duncan 4; Sarah Philley 7; and Christan Kelly 1.

In their game against Coahoma, it was Robert Lee 43 and Coahoma 38. Robert Lee scoring: Alexander 2; Millican 5; Skinner 4; Katie Bessent 2; Kelly 13; Reed 6; Philley 9; and Duncan 2.

The next game will be on Dec. 2 against Christoval at 4:00. On Dec. 4-6, the varsity girls will participate in the Irion County Varsity Tournament and the JV girls will play in the Grape Creek JV Tournament.

RL PIPS practice & performance schedule announced

The Robert Lee PIPs will practice at 6 pm December 2, 4, 11, and 18. They will perform during halftime of the "A" girls game on December 2.

Following a Christmas break, practices will be held at at 6 pm January 8, 9, 15, 22, 23, 29, 30,

and February 5 and 6. Performances will be held during halftime of the "A" girls games on January 9, 23, and 30, and February 6.

RLHS Spanish Club to participate in project

The Robert Lee High School Spanish Club will take on a new service project this year. Operation Christmas Child is an exciting project of Samaritan's Purse that demonstrated God's love through gift-filled shoeboxes.

Each year, caring individuals, families, churches, schools, businesses, and other groups fill shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, and other items for children in need.

Working with national churches and ministries around the world, the shoeboxes are distributed to millions of children affected by war, poverty, disease, and disaster.

Everyone is urged to help the club bring Christmas to needy children this year. If you would like to participate, please contact Elena Sanchez at 453-4555.

Shoeboxes will be taken to

Flowers & Balloons

This 'N That Shop
717 Austin • Robert Lee

WINK INSURANCE AGENCY



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715 Austin • 453-4551

Have a
Safe &
Happy



THANKSGIVING DAY

Bell Auto Body Shop

Robert Lee

453-2640



Ashley Womack presented her winning essay on patriotism to the audience at the Veterans' Day Service Saturday, November 15, 2003. The service was held at the Coke County Veterans' Memorial Plaza in Bronte.

San Angelo on Monday, November 17. Please join the RLHS Spanish Club in sharing the true meaning of Christmas through Operation Christmas Child.

Silent auction to benefit RLHS Spanish Club

The silent auction will be a new fundraising idea that the Robert Lee High School Spanish Club will be trying out this year.

Every member of the club is asked to bring a new item, ranging in price from \$5-\$10 in value, for his or her assigned game. The item can be anything from a baked item (cakes, pies, cookies, casseroles, tamales, etc.) to a purchased item (Christmas ornaments, tools, deer corn, craft items, etc.).

All items need to be at RLHS by 1 pm of their assigned game day.

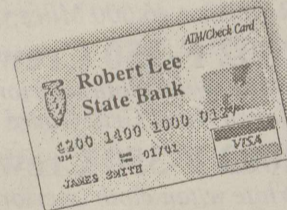
Anyone wishing to bid on a particular item will be given a form to fill out and will then be assigned a number. The items will be on display behind the gate in the foyer. The person with the highest bid will be announced during half time of the varsity boys' games. The winners may then pick up and pay for their items.

For questions, please call Elena Sanchez at 453-4555 or 453-2131.

Project Graduation 2005

Robert Lee Project Graduation 2005 will be taking orders for basketball shirts. Shirts will be available in short or long sleeves. FMI contact Cindy Riley, Valarie Howard, Elena Sanchez or go by Cathy's to place your order.

Wherever you go... take us along!



Robert Lee State Bank is offering a brand new way to access your checking account - with the Robert Lee State Bank Visa Check Card. Use it to purchase goods and services at millions of Visa merchant locations and the amount of your purchase will be automatically deducted from your Robert Lee State Bank checking account, just as if you had written a paper check! The Robert Lee State Bank Visa Check Card is an ATM card, too! Use it to get cash anywhere you see the TransFund, Pulse or Cirrus logo at thousands of ATMs worldwide.

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Robert Lee
State Bank

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453-2545



MEMBER
FDIC

School Menu

Breakfast

Monday, Dec. 1

Juice, donut, cereal, milk

Tuesday, Dec. 2

Juice, breakfast pizza, cereal, milk

Wednesday, Dec. 3

Juice, burrito, cereal, milk

Thursday, Dec. 4

Juice, muffin, cereal, milk

Friday, Dec. 5

Juice, pancake & sausage on stick, cereal, milk

Lunch

Monday, Dec. 1

Rib-B-Ques, scalloped potatoes, green beans, roll, pears, milk

Tuesday, Dec. 2

Pizza, corn, salad, applesauce, teddy grahams, milk

Wednesday, Dec. 3

Steakfingers, gravy, creamed potatoes, English peas, sliced bread, fruit cocktail, milk

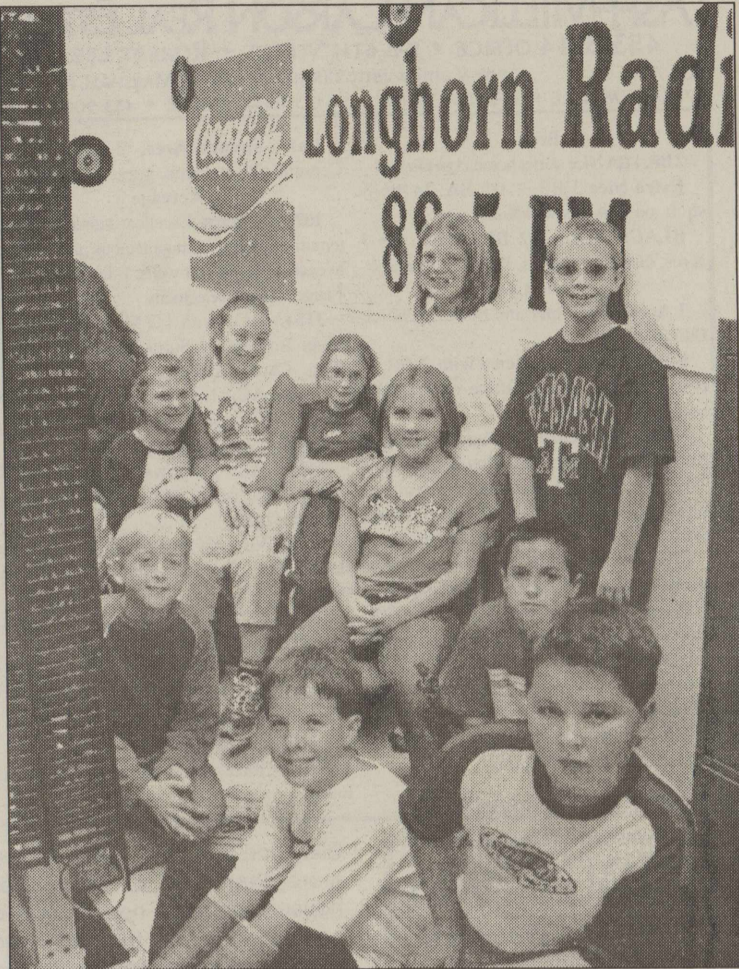
Thursday, Dec. 4

Tacos, cheese, salad, Spanish rice, ranch beans, fruit, milk

Friday, Dec. 5

Chicken patty on bun, tator tots, pickles, peaches, ice cream, milk

BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS



Bronte Elementary A Honor Roll students were treated to pizza and then became radio disk jockeys on Longhorn Radio 88.5 FM. Each student got to speak live on the radio. They included (clockwise, from top left) Katie Austin, Mackenzie Gibbs, Kimber Lee, Harley Wallace, Leah Jones, Chase Harris, Arlis McMullan, Crawford James, Jacob Scott and Bill Miller. Mason Braswell and Benny Fuentez are not pictured.



The Bronte Texans Pee Wee football team was undefeated this year. Team members are (bottom row, from left) Kerwin Rawls, Dakota Rawls, Ryan Neely, (middle row, from left) Austin Brakeen, Caleb Rosson, Jordan Rowan, Brent Kelly, (top row, from left) Ethan Sedden, Austin Mertz, Creed Coalson, Terron Charles and Carson James. Coaches for the team include (from left) Terry Charles, Wayne Coalson and Kyle James.

Message from Saudi Arabia

As a patriotic American working in a dangerous corner of the world, I am gratified by the support of my fellow Americans back home in trying to make conditions better for me and our fellow Americans here in the Middle East.

Many servicemen and women have come here, and some have died, fighting to ensure a

peaceful future for this region and the entire world. Their task, and that of our President, is far from an easy one. But I am gratified to observe the fervor and dedication they exhibit in carrying out their dangerous duties. I realize that there will be times of difficulty in the struggle to make the Middle East a more peaceful place to live. But the long-term goal of a more peaceful world should be kept in mind during these difficult times. I encourage all my fellow Americans back home to continue to give their full support to our far-sighted President and to the servicemen and women fighting in the Middle East. Please keep them and all of us Americans residing in this dangerous part of the world in your prayers; and let's hope that all of us can strive to bring about the long-term goal of a peaceful, democratic region that experiences the end of conflict and disharmony and the birth of peace, concord, and brotherly love.

Sincerely,
Kim Hester
P.O. Box 691
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia 31932

Area Poets Invited to Enter Amateur Poetry Contest

Good news for sincere poets! The Bards of Burbank is offering a \$1,000 grand prize in their current open poetry contest, free to everyone. The deadline for entering is December 13, 2003.

To enter, send one poem 21

lines or less: Free Poetry Contest, PMB250, 2219 W Olive Ave, Burbank, CA 91506, you may enter online at www.bardsofburbank.com.

"Poets deserve opportunities to exhibit their work and find recognition," says Dr John Cusack, the organization's Contest Director. "We're especially keen on inspiring amateur poets and we think this competition will achieve that. Texas has produced many wonderful poets over the years and I'd like to discover new ones from among the Coke County area grass-roots poets."

Area Children Invited to Enter Amateur Photo Contest

Coke County kids under 14 are invited to enter a national photo contest. The competition was developed by landscape photographer Franklin B. Way to get kids out into nature and away from the TV this winter. Kids can enter at 2ndNatureJustforKids.com.

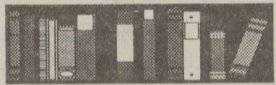
Photo Contest:

- Prizes include a FUJI FinPix camera, framed panoramic Franklin B. Way photographs and a Franklin B. Way poster.
- Deadline is Dec. 31, 2003.
- Photos must be color and the subject matter must be "something made in nature."
- Three winners will be selected from each of two categories (Ages 8 & Under and Ages 9 to 13).



Ariel Marrs presented her winning essay on patriotism to the audience at the Veterans' Day Service Saturday, November 15, 2003. The service was held at the Coke County Veterans' Memorial Plaza in Bronte.

School Menu



Breakfast

Monday, Dec. 1

Cereal, sliced peaches, toast, jelly, milk

Tuesday, Dec. 2

French toast sticks, assorted juice, syrup, milk

Wednesday, Dec. 3

Donut, apple sauce, teddy grams, milk

Thursday, Dec. 4

Scrambled eggs, assorted juice, toast, jelly, milk

Friday, Dec. 5

Blueberry muffin, assorted juice, biscuit, jelly, milk

Lunch

Monday, Dec. 1

Pizza, tossed salad, sweet corn, brownies, milk

Tuesday, Dec. 2

Frito pie, chili & cheese, pinto beans, tossed salad, corn chips, jello, milk

Wednesday, Dec. 3

Grilled cheese sandwich, beef & vegetable soup, carrot sticks, corn bread, pink panther cake, milk

Thursday, Dec. 4

Steak fingers, gravy, creamed potatoes, green beans, sliced peaches, roll, milk

Friday, Dec. 5

Sloppy Joe, tator tots, baked beans, bun, sugar cookies, milk

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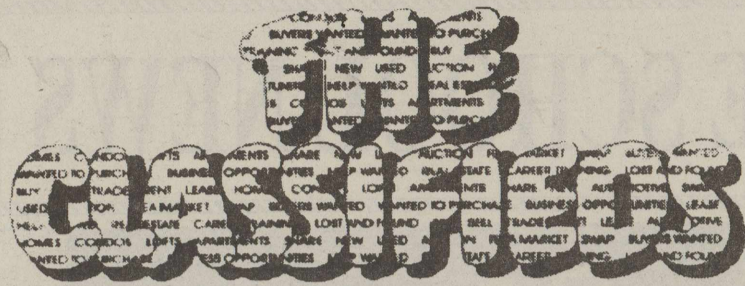
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 This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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HOUSE FOR SALE
 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, central heat & air. Stucco with tile roof. New paint & carpet. \$59,900 or owner carry with 20% down. 201 Jones, Bronte. 325-439-1051.

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 15-inch computer monitor, good working condition. 453-2497 after 5:00 pm.



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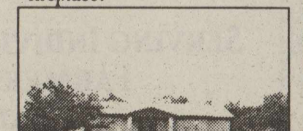
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The Wheat Family
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Editorial & Advertising Deadline
 is 2 pm on Tuesday preceding publication.



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WHEN: Sunday • November 30th • 1 pm
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FINANCIAL FOCUS

With Jim Woodruff of Edward Jones

Urgently Needed: Better retirement planning

You may not have realized it, but last week was National Retirement Planning Week. Even though you may have missed it, it's still a great time to review your retirement account because achieving your desired lifestyle requires careful planning and periodic reviews of your savings and investments.

National Retirement Planning Week, sponsored by a group of financial industry and consumer advocacy organizations, is designed to raise public awareness of the need for comprehensive retirement planning. And right now, that's a big need. Consider the following:
 *We're not saving much - Three-fourths of all Americans between the ages of 50 and 60 have saved less than \$37,000 for retirement, according to the U.S. Census. And 29 percent of American workers say they or their spouse have not saved for retirement, according to the 2003 Retirement Confidence Survey, co-authored by the American Savings Education Council.

*We're not taking full advantage of available retirement plans - Less than 15 percent of working-age Americans contributed the maximum amount to their 401(k) plans in 2002, according to a Reuters report published in June.

*We're not planning ahead -

Sixty-one percent of workers and more than half of all worker households have not calculated how much money they will need to save for retirement, says the Retirement Confidence Survey.

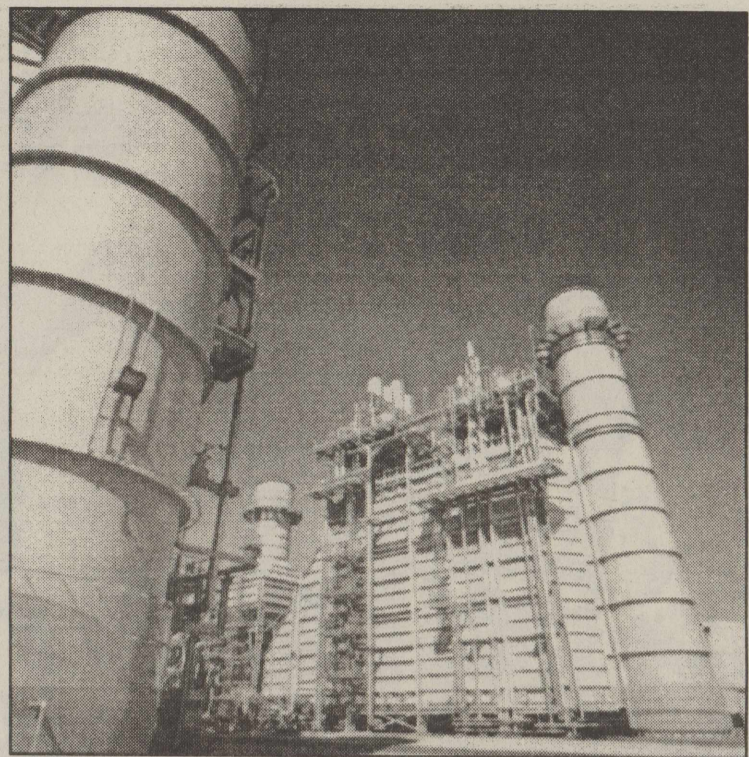
So, what should you do? For starters, identify your retirement goals - and give them a "price tag." What do you plan to do during your retirement years? Will you travel? Buy a vacation home? Open a small business? Once you identify what your retirement might look like, you should be able to calculate about how much money you'll eventually need. An investment professional can help you come up with these figures.

Next, evaluate your current savings and investment vehicles. Are you putting away as much as you possibly can? If not, what opportunities do you have? You may be able to put in more to your 401(k) or another type of tax-deferred, employer-sponsored retirement plan. If you have already "maxed out" on your 401(k), then you may be able to contribute to a traditional or Roth IRA, both of which also offer tax advantages.

If you've contributed the maximum amounts to a 401(k) and an IRA, then you may want to look at other retirement savings vehicles, such as annuities. You can contribute large amounts to an annuity, and, as is the case with a 401(k), your earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis. If you need to make a withdrawal from an annuity, any accumulated earnings are taxable at the time of the withdrawal. In addition to paying income taxes, you may also be subject to a surrender charge by the issuing insurance company. And if you are younger than 59 1/2, you may be subject to a 10 percent IRS penalty on the earnings.

But what can you do to help protect yourself from the volatility of the stock market? First, start investing early for retirement - the more time you have on your side, the better your chances of overcoming market downturns. Next, diversify the investments within your retirement plans. By spreading your dollars among a wide array of stocks - along with bonds, government securities and money market vehicles - you can help blunt the impact of volatility and give yourself more chances for success.

By taking these steps, you'll go a long way toward achieving your retirement objectives - and when National Retirement Week rolls around again, you can look back on a year's worth of progress.



Golden Spread Electric Cooperative's Mustang Station generating plant, outside of Denver City, now serves 16 distribution cooperatives.

CVEC & TEC co-ops join Golden Spread family

Concho Valley Electric Cooperation (CVEC), based in San Angelo, and Taylor Electric Cooperative (TEC), based in Merkel, have joined Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, a generation cooperative now owned by 16 electric distribution cooperatives.

Based in Amarillo, Golden Spread is a consumer-owned public utility organized in 1984 to provide low cost, reliable electric service for 11 rural distribution cooperatives. The original member cooperatives are located in the Texas Panhandle, the Oklahoma Panhandle the Texas South Plains. The new member co-ops serve counties in West Texas and the Edwards Plateau region.

"I am confident that joining Golden Spread will help stabilize our power costs in the uncertain times ahead," said Weldon Gray, CVEC executive vice president and CEO.

Darryl Schriver, general manager of TEC, said, "The mission of member-owned cooperatives is to provide the best service at the most reasonable cost available. Golden Spread will help us do that."

CVEC, organized in 1940, has approximately 10,470 meters serving customers in Tom Green, Coke, Concho, Sterling, Irion, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Glasscock and Reagan counties. The co-op has 3,734 miles of energized line.

TEC, organized in 1939, has approximately 12,543 meters serving customers in Taylor, Callahan, Jones, Nolan, Shackelford, Fisher, Coke and Eastland counties. The co-op has 4,469 miles of energized line.

CVEC and TEC will assign their existing wholesale power contracts to Golden Spread. As soon as all required contractual and regulatory approvals can be obtained, Golden Spread will become responsible for supplying electricity to these new members.

Golden Spread and its 16 member systems serve approximately 184,000 meters in 80 counties. Their combined load exceeds 1,000 megawatts and they operate 68,400 miles of energized line. Total annual revenues

are more than \$300 million.

Golden Spread generates a portion of its members' electricity needs and purchases the balance from other wholesalers. Golden Spread also sells energy to other utilities when its power supply resources are not needed to serve member system loads.

Golden Spread owns 50 percent of Mustang Station, a state-of-the-art generating facility located near Denver City. Mustang Station burns natural gas in two large gas turbine-generators to produce 300 megawatts of power. Exhaust heat from the gas turbines is converted to steam to power a third generator with no additional fuel cost. The combined output of Mustang Station is 480 megawatts.

Supply and demand could increase heating costs

The cost to keep warm this winter could be higher than last year if natural gas prices increase across the nation. The price of natural gas depends on the balance between supply and demand, which can be affected by the severity of the weather and economic activity, according to energy experts.

To ensure customers are not caught by surprise, TXU Gas is sending out a notice in its November gas bills. Also included in this notice are energy-saving recommendations and information about TXU Average Billing, a free service that makes bills more predictable every month.

"Providing reliable service at a reasonable cost is our commitment to our customers," said Shelley Burnett, TXU Gas manager.

Natural gas prices, just as with any other commodity, are subject to supply and demand. Over the past few years, we as a nation have not seen a significant increase in our supply as demand has increased, Burnett said.

TXU Gas manages the cost of natural gas through a mix of long-term contracts, purchases on the spot market and placing natural gas in storage for use during peak winter days. "This minimizes the impact of price changes on our customers and ensures that we have an ample supply of natural gas," Burnett said.

A customer's bill is based primarily on how much gas is used and the cost to purchase



PIPs from the Concho Valley area performed an inside/out rotating spin circle at camp. The camp was held Friday, October 24, 2003, at San Angelo Lake View. Twenty-two PIP members from Robert Lee participated.

the gas.

Burnett said that TXU Gas customers can take control over their winter gas bills by lowering their thermostats, having their furnaces and oth-

er appliances checked for operating efficiency and considering TXU Average Billing, which spreads the higher winter bills over 12 months.

TXU Gas customers can sign

up for TXU Average Billing by calling 1-800-460-3030. Customers can find more tips on how to save money on their gas bill by visiting www.txugas.com.

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Coke
County

High School
Rodeo
News

Sonora, Texas was the site for the final fall semester high school rodeo held November 15-16, 2003. Again, Coke County students from Robert Lee and Bronte represented their schools very well. From Saturdays competition found cowgirls Lillian McMullan placing 3rd in the breakaway, 5th in the barrels, 1st in the goat tying and 7th in the poles. Ashley Denton placed 5th in the breakaway roping, 7th place in the barrels and 4th place in the goat tying. Jake McCabe and his team roping partner won 5th place in the team roping. On Sunday, sophomore, Lance Millican won 2nd place in the calf roping. Again, Lillian McMullan won the goat tying, placed 2nd in the breakaway roping and split 7 and 8th places in the barrel racing. Natalee Reed finished her weekend placing 10th in the pole pending race.

The race to qualify for the Texas High School Rodeo State Finals will resume in late February the spring semester.

TFB to celebrate membership numbers

When Texas Farm Bureau delegates gather at the Waco Convention Center in Waco for their 70th annual convention, Dec. 6-8, they have something to celebrate—the fact that the state's largest general farm organization hit a new membership high in 2003 with 371,320 member families!

TFB President Kenneth Dierschke, a San Angelo cotton and grain farmer, said the dramatic growth in membership underscored the grassroots nature of the organization and the common bond Texans, both urban and rural, find with farmers and ranchers.

Dierschke emphasized that the most important business of the upcoming convention is adoption of the organization's policy book, which lays out Texas Farm Bureau's marching orders for the coming year.

"This is how we prepare to turn the hopes, dreams and ideas of our members into positive solutions that address the many problems of agriculture. Their participation is not only important, it's vital to our organization's success. As always, I know our delegates take this task seriously and will prepare themselves for a productive delegate session," he said.

Dierschke noted that the convention timeframe has been condensed to involve more members and encourage delegates to participate in all the organization's important business.

"This year's convention has been programmed in a streamlined, leaner format. It's shorter, allowing members and delegates to attend to our organization's business without taking too much time away from their own farming and ranching operations," said Dierschke.

The 2003 convention begins at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6, with the Discussion Meet Contest. This valuable forum provides an opportunity for young agricultural

producers to discuss issues of importance to agriculture.

At 2 p.m., participants in the 2003 Citizenship Seminar, who won their district meets, will speak about the Constitution and Free Enterprise System in the Free Enterprise Speech Semi-Finals. The field will be narrowed and finalists, competing for the high prize of a \$4,000 scholarship, will advance to Sunday's competition.

More youth scholarship contests are slated for Sunday afternoon, followed by District Caucuses and an awards banquet in which Farm Bureau Pioneers, Membership, and Young Farmers and Ranchers will receive recognition.

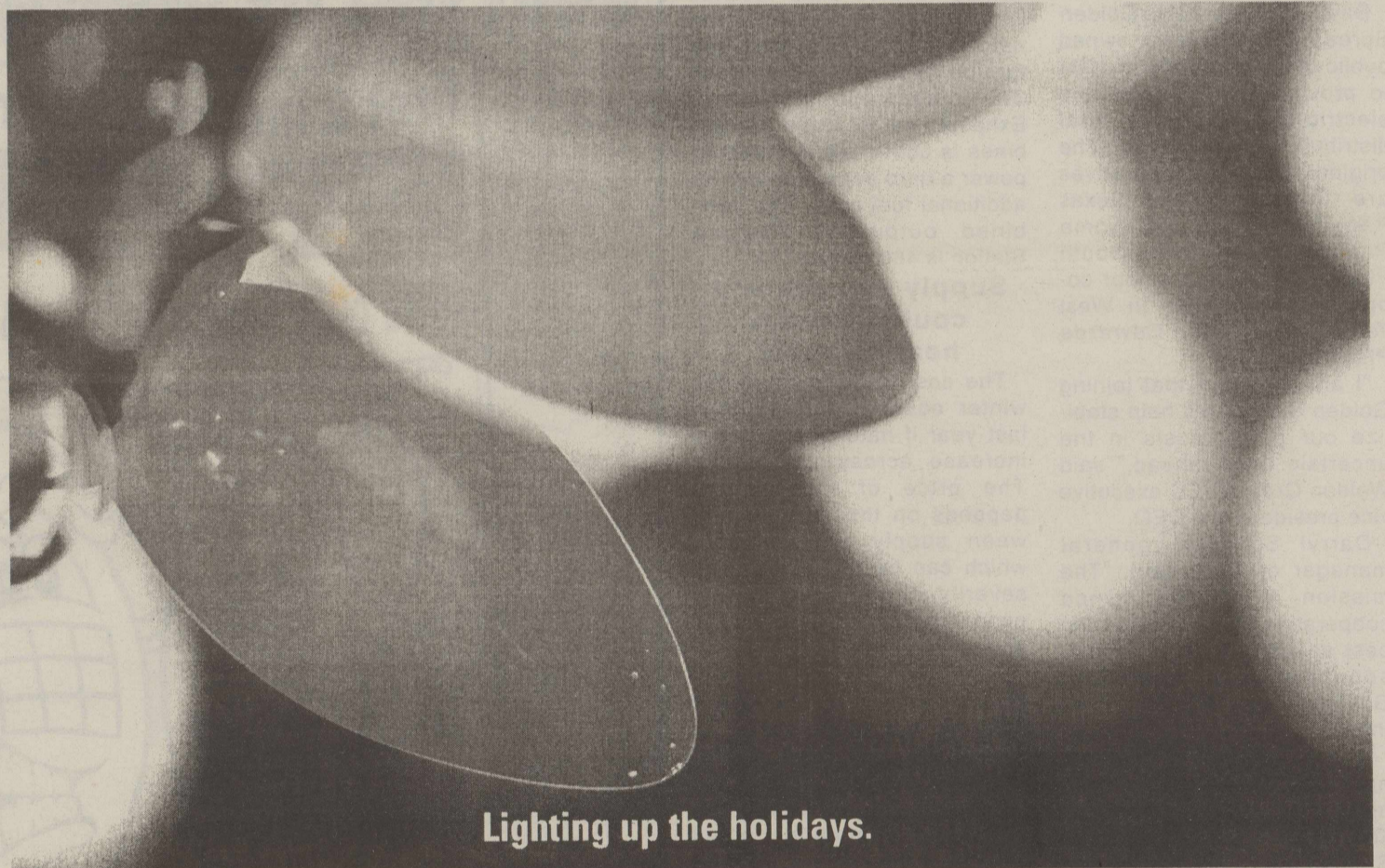
Dierschke said the goal is to have the convention business wrapped up by 4 p.m. Monday afternoon. The session will conclude following the election of the TFB President and state board members from odd numbered districts.

Do your Christmas Shopping at This 'N That Shop 717 Austin • Robert Lee



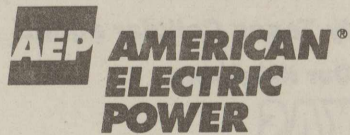
Coke County high school rodeo contestants include (from left) Cody McCabe, Ashley Denton, Natalee Reed, Lance Millican, Jake McCabe and Lillian McMullan.

5:35 p.m. Thursday



Lighting up the holidays.

As you begin using decorative lighting in and around your home this holiday season, AEP reminds you to keep safety in mind. Check light strings for frayed cords, and use only UL-approved lights and extension cords. Remember not to overload circuits, and remind children not to touch lights or outlets. And on behalf of all of us here at AEP, please enjoy a safe, bright holiday season with your family and friends. **AEP is there, always working for you.**



For more information about electrical safety, visit aep.com