

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

Single Copy 35¢



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

Vol. 116, No. 21

Friday, December 12, 2003

Christmas Open Houses set for today in Robert Lee

Robert Lee's traditional Christmas Open House Day is Friday, December 12. Open House is an opportunity for Robert Lee businesses to say thanks to their customers and for local residents to say thanks to the people of the offices and businesses who are here available locally. To sustain the local economy, it is essential that a partnership exist between the community and the businesses and offices.

The Robert Lee State Bank's lobby will bring on the Christmas spirit with its ceiling-high Christmas tree and all the food especially prepared by the staff at the bank for their customers. The Coke County Courthouse will host Santa Claus who will arrive in the fire truck at 3:45 pm. The employees of the county are also some of the best cooks in the west and the Commissioners Courtroom is a feast not to be missed.

Also, Bonita Copeland will be on hand in the Conference Room at the Courthouse to distribute her recently released *A History of the Old Coke County Jail and Sheriffs*. The proceeds of the sale of her book will support the restoration of the Old Jail which is a project designed to bring tourists to our county for years to come. There will also be copies of Jane Austin Bruckner's *Grandmother Stories from the Heart of Texas*, the proceeds of which also go to the Old Jail restoration project. Copies of *Sharing Our Best*, the West Coke County Community Development cookbook in which are featured the recipes of West Coke County family favorites is available in Joan Davis' office.

Cathy's Flowers and Gifts invites the community in for Christmas cheer and to view many new Christmas gift items. Figurines, stuffed animals, Circle E Candles, jewelry and plants are all welcomed gifts. Also, for friends and family far away, Cathy's can arrange for flowers to be delivered during the Christmas season. Key Feed will have snacks and a drawing. Knives, gloves, hunting equipment, New York pecan shellers, and a new item that's worth seeing, an electronic game caller with turkey,

jackrabbit and other animal sounds.

C&H will offer a buffet to customers. There are also many gift choices in the store. Tool kits, yard equipment, Christmas lights, and an array of kitchen appliances are available. Rock Solid Communications will have snacks and customers will have a chance to look at the cellular phones that are on everyone's wish list.

Ivey Motor Company will have their usual buffet full of food and Ben Bessent Chevrolet will have the popular hot dog table set up.

City Hall will have beans and rice and cornbread for those who come by. Kay Torres and Brandi Ramon are cooking the dishes and some of the Council members will bring in the cornbread. Designs by Toni invites everyone to come by for a treat and some free gifts as well as some stocking stuffer gifts. Gift certificates are available. Darrell's will have refreshments and gift certificates will be available for all services at various prices. There will be a gift certificate for anyone's stocking.

This 'N That is having refreshments for the community. The History of the Old Jail and Sheriffs, Grandmother Stories and Heroes from the Attic are available at the store. There is something in the store also that will delight any collector at Christmas.

The Observer/Enterprise invites everyone in for a snack during Open House. Visitors will enjoy the rustic atmosphere provided by Texas Classic Designs. This local company is becoming known for their unique ranch-style barn wood, iron and horseshoe items. Texas Classic Designs are available at the Observer/Enterprise office in Robert Lee in Bronte at Main Street Market. The Coke County Library will have a supply of cookies and copies of the local history books for purchase.

The Farm Bureau will have dips and chips and will have a drawing for a free membership. Free calendars will also be available. Especially for You and DJ's Merle Norman shops will have refreshments and a visit will give everyone a chance to check out gift cer-

tificates, jewelry, picture frames, and sun catchers. Merle Norman is offering 20% off on all gift items on Friday only. Also available are crosses cut from Coke County limestone. Sizes range from small to very large and prices are based on the size.

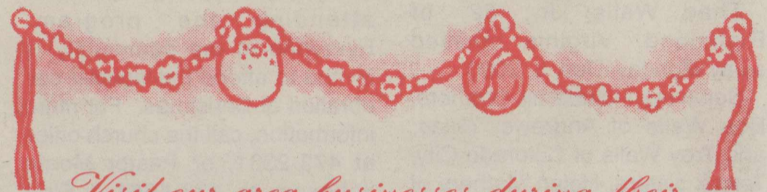
Super H is inviting everyone in for Open House. Drawings are being held on a television, a huge red chair, and other smaller items. Cindy's invites everyone over for a cup of coffee and to have a chance to see the home-made pies she turns out. The Browns also prepare bar-b-q meals for the multitudes. Brisket, sausage, beans, potato salad and the pies can be ordered for the holidays. A gift certificate for a world-class hamburger and an order of the Brown's special French fries will suit any appetite.

Skinner's Grocery is off the beaten path for Open House, but no one has ever been refused a cup of coffee there and it should be mentioned that the Skinners turn out the best smoked ham of the century. Forget the tasteless spiral cut, go for the gusto. Frankie's Beauty Shop is another business off the beaten path, but gift certificates are always available. Give the old car a Christmas going over at one of the car repair and car body shops that keep Robert Lee running. The restaurants and Mt. Creek Lodge of Robert Lee not only serve local folks, but also those who come to visit. Their presence assures visitors a nice stay.

Open House is a reminder to the community of how much residents and businesses depend on each other and how much we appreciate one another. The mega-everything stores and giant grocery stores of the cities could care less if a rural community survives.

Senior dance set for December 18 in Robert Lee

Coy Moses and his band will be furnishing the music for the monthly dance at the Robert Lee Recreation building on Thursday, December 18, at 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm. Please come and bring a snack to be shared at break time. Tea and coffee will be provided.



Visit our area businesses during their
Holiday Open House
celebrations.



Friday
December 12



FNB Open House slated for Dec. 12

First National Bank in Bronte has set Open House for Friday, December 12, from 9:00 am til 1:00 pm. Refreshments will be served. The community is invited to attend.

Christmas in Olde Bronte set for December 18

The Bronte Chamber of Commerce invites you to mark your calendars for December 18. Christmas is a time of family and friends so gather them up and be a part of the parade. At 5:00 p.m. the Christmas Parade will begin from the nursing home. Anyone interested in being in the parade, show up at the nursing home between 4:15 and 4:45 p.m. Prizes will be given for best entry.

After the parade, we will congregate at City Hall for food, drinks and fun. Area clubs and organizations will be on hand with something good to eat or something fun to do. We'll even have free blood pressure checks. Santa will be there to hear all the children's wishes and pictures will be taken. Some of you have expressed interest in selling your homemade crafts. All are welcomed. The stores on Main Street will remain open for late shoppers. For more information call Annie Gill 743-2555.

Anyone interested in Singing Christmas carols please show

up at the minipark immediately after the parade. What's Christmas without carolers?

Come out and bring your festive spirits. Help us celebrate "Christmas in Olde Bronte." Remember the elderly and shut ins. Offer them a ride for a fun evening. Happy Holidays.

Grape Creek Show Choir to perform in Coke County

The Grape Creek Show Choir will be performing in Coke County on Friday, Dec. 12th. The show choir is a song and dance group of young ladies who have auditioned for the traveling group. They will perform at these times in Robert Lee and Bronte. Try to catch one of their shows.

10:00 - 1st National Bank at Bronte

10:45 - Bronte Care Center
11:30 - Robert Lee State Bank
12:00 - Robert Lee Care Center

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

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Published Weekly Except Christmas
707 Austin (325) 453-2433
email: CokeCoObserver@aol.com

Periodical Rate Postage paid at Robert Lee, TX.

**POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to
Observer/Enterprise
PO Box 1329, Robert Lee, TX 76945.**

STAFF

Hal Spain, Publisher Melinda McCutchen, Editor
Pat Taft Wayne McCutchen

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per Year in Coke County.....\$20.00
Per Year Elsewhere in Texas.....\$22.00
Per Year Outside of Texas.....\$25.00

Death Notices

Walls

Thad Walls, Jr., 82, of Richmond, Virginia, passed away Monday, Dec. 8, 2003.

Survivors include his brothers, Bob Walls of Andrews, Texas, and Troy Walls of Colorado City, Texas; sisters, Helen Mathers of Robert Lee, Lois Gray of Grand Prairie, Texas, and Joy Spradlin of Grand Prairie, Texas; and many treasured nieces and nephews.

Children's musical "Miracle at Midnight" slated for December 14

"Miracle at Midnight," a Christmas Musical for Children by Ruth Elaine Schram and Mark Cabaniss, will be presented at Bronte's First Baptist Church this Sunday, December 14, at 6:00 pm.

Combining music and drama, this program presents the Christmas story in a humorous yet heartwarming fashion. Under the direction of Ida Lee Ellis, Azul Garcia, Susan Graves, Ariel Marrs, Donna Poehls, and Danielle Queen, the children's choir is composed of children from throughout the community.

Characters in the drama include: Mayor Mayer (Caleb Rosson); Mayor's Assistant Ms. Snitley (Meagan Yackley); Reporter (Courtney Balderas); Mary (Kelsey Sedden); Joseph (Skyler Ellis); Sergeant Seraphim, the head Angel (Jael Williams); Angels (Cindy Davila, Stephanie Huntley, Kasey Queen, Camie White); Shepherds (Jerrold Balderas, Cheyenne Boyd, Jensen Reed, Shelbi Waller); Wise Men (Joshua Means, Joshua Puentez, Rob Rosson); Flash the Camel (Addie Rosson); Townspeople (Cheyenne Boyd,

Erika Puentez).

Following the presentation of Miracle at Midnight, a special Christmas Supper is being hosted by First Baptist Church for all attending the program. Everyone in the community is invited to attend this special celebration of Christmas. For more information, call the church office at 473-2331, or Pastor Morris Johnson at 473-5661. First Baptist Church is located at 424 S. Washington in Bronte.

County residents generous to Food Pantry

The Coke County Food Pantry is happy to report that due to the generosity of the citizens of Coke County, 70 boxes of food were given for Thanksgiving. These boxes are an extra giving. Through November, a total of 25,000 pounds of food have been given to 3590 people.

The residents of Coke County have always answered the call when there is a need. It is anticipated that there will be 70 or more boxes of food given out on Monday, December 22. We continue to need your donations of food or money. You may deposit directly into the Robert Lee State Bank or you may mail your contribution to Coke County Food Pantry, Box 1299, Robert Lee, Texas 76945. Throughout the year the food pantry, located at 714 Washington in Robert Lee, is open each Wednesday from 3-5 pm.

The van from Bronte is at the depot between 2:30 and 2:45 each Wednesday. They leave from the depot at 3:00 to bring anyone needing a ride to the food pantry. For more information you may call Joan Burns, 453-2144 or Mary Bessent, 453-2492.

2004 Rec Hall bookings to begin January 5

To make reservations for the



Joan Burns (right) presents a box of food to Joe Longoria, (from left) Elizabeth Ortega, and Santos Reyes. The Bronte and Robert Lee Elementary students conducted a food drive for the Coke County Food Pantry prior to the Robert Lee - Bronte football game and the collected food was used to prepare over seventy Thanksgiving boxes (above) for county residents. Through November, a total of 25,000 pounds of food have been given to 3,590 people. The residents of Coke County have always answered the call when there is a need. It is anticipated that there will be seventy or more boxes of food given out Monday, December 22. Donations of food and money are still needed. You may deposit donations directly into the Robert Lee State Bank or you may mail your contribution to Coke County Food Pantry, PO Box 1299, Robert Lee, Texas 76945. Throughout the year, the food pantry is open each Wednesday from 3-5 pm. The van from Bronte is at the depot between 2:30 and 2:45 each Wednesday. The van leaves from the depot at 3 pm to bring anyone needing a ride to the food pantry, located at 714 Washington in Robert Lee. For more information, call Joan Burns at 453-2144 or Mary Bessent at 453-2492.

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.

New Christmas Gift Items

This 'N That Shop
717 Austin • Robert Lee

Miracle at Midnight
A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL FOR CHILDREN
Music and Lyrics by Ruth Elaine Schram
Drama by Mark Cabaniss

Sunday • December 14 • 6 pm
First Baptist Church in Bronte

Once again, it is election time and I would like to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for re-election for the position of Coke County Tax Assessor-Collector.

I appreciate everyone who supported me in the last election and I respectfully ask for your vote and support in the upcoming primary elections in March, 2004.

It has been a pleasure to serve the residents of Coke County and I look forward to serving you in the future.

**Thank you,
Gayle Sisemore**

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Gayle Sisemore, PO Box 952, Robert Lee, TX 76945.

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) 453-2004
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

Millican, Moore engagement announced

Marshall and Sheri Millican are pleased to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Kannan Yvonne, to Aaron Joseph Moore of Aledo. His parents are Kim and Carol Moore of Denver City, Texas.

Kannan is the granddaughter of Winnie Pitcock and the late Teddy Pitcock of Robert Lee, Lawana Perry of Carlsbad and Elton Millican of Grapecreek. She is the great-granddaughter of Floyd & Jessie Harmon of Robert Lee. She was a 1997 graduate of Robert Lee High School and received a Bachelors of Business Administration from Tarleton State University in 2001. She is a relocation specialist for White Real Estate in Fort Worth.

Aaron is the grandson of Gary and Darlene Moore of San Angelo and of Joe and Jean Woods of Hobbs, New Mexico. He graduated from Denver City High School in 1997 and attended Tarleton State University. He graduated from Johnson County Fire Academy in January of 2000. He is currently a firefighter for the Flower Mound Fire Department in Flower Mound, Texas. The wedding will be February 21, 2004 at the Robert Lee Baptist Church. After the wedding the two will reside in Aledo.

Jail, Sheriff's book signing set for Friday

A History of the Old Coke County Jail and Sheriffs will be available for purchase and pick-up of pre-sold books on Friday, December 12, in the Conference Room at the Coke County Courthouse. The proceeds of the book have been dedicated by the author to the restoration of the Old Jail which will be of benefit to the County as a historic and cultural tourist destination site.

Although she researched the material for the book for over a year, Bonita Copeland has been made aware of an inadvertent use of a family name. Ms. Copeland said, "We want to correct the error that is found on page 103 of the Jail and Sheriff history book. Lawanna Perry is Marshall Millican's mother. She is not Mrs. Don Parsons."

Bonita Copeland will be in the Conference Room of the Courthouse on Open House Day, December 12.

Filing period continues for primary elections

by Hal Spain, Publisher
Prospective candidates for county governmental positions are advised that the official filing period for these elections has begun. Wednesday, December 3, 2003, was opening day for those wishing to file for these offices. The filing period continues through Friday, January 2, 2004.

Local governmental offices which come up for vote this year include the Coke County Sheriff; Commissioners, Precincts 1 and 3; Tax Assessor/Collector; County Attorney; and Constables, Precincts 1 and 2.

Those interested in filing for any of these local elective positions are asked to contact County Democratic Chair Patti Ivey at 453-2582, or County Republican Chair Kathy Pentecost at 453-2920 for more information and the appropriate forms.

Due to the redistricting mess



Kannan Millican & Aaron Moore

we are involved in on the state level, all the information concerning the upcoming primary elections has been slow in coming to the county level. However, the primary elections have been set for Tuesday, March 9, 2004, unless the courts decide to do something different.

Additionally, the last day to register to vote in the upcoming primary election is February 9, 2004. Be sure to register, if you haven't already, and vote in the upcoming primary election.

FSA producer sign up for DCP slated

Producers who wish to participate in the farm program (DCP) for the 2004 crop year are encouraged to visit the office and sign up. Producers who signed up for 2002 and 2003 MUST sign up for 2004. This will be an every year sign up until the DCP program ends in 2007. Sign up will be much quicker than last year

so hopefully producers won't have to spend as much time in the office to complete sign up.

Producers who did not sign up for 2002 or 2003 but, who have a base on qualifying crop may also sign up for 2004.

Producers must have an approved CCC-502 (pay limit form), and 1026 before any payments can be issued.

Be sure to make an appointment. For more information call 453-2751 or come by the office.

Retirement reception to honor Kay Clay

On Thursday, December 18, there will be a Retirement Reception for Kay Clay in the Robert Lee High School Library from 4:00 - 5:00 pm. Mrs. Clay has faithfully served Robert Lee ISD for 24 years. Everyone is invited to come to the school for this special occasion.

For additional information, please contact Judy Shook or Mona Mathers at 453-4555.

"Happy 71st Wedding Anniversary"
to our Parents
Floyd & Jessie Harmon
December 18, 2003
"Happy 88th Birthday, Mama (Ma)"
from your children, grandchildren, & great-grandchildren

I have filed for the office of
Constable, Precinct 2.
If elected, I promise to bring honesty
& common sense to this office.

Marty Boyd

I sincerely appreciate your support.

pd. pol. adv. by Marty Boyd

SUPER H

Texas Lotto Tickets Sold Here  
WIC Cards Welcome  
ATM Available


501 Commerce - Robert Lee, TX
Store Hrs: Mon.-Sat. 8-8 Sun. 8-6
SPECIALS GOOD 12/10 Thru 12/16
LIMIT RIGHTS RESERVED

Previously Frozen
Family Pack
Split Fryer
Breasts
Lb. **\$.99**



Washington Extra Fancy
Red Delicious
Apples
or California Navel
Lb. **\$.79** **Oranges**

Shurfine Assorted Flavors
Ice Cream
1/2 Gal. Square **2/\$3**



Assorted Flavors Shurfine
Soda Pop
3 Ltr. Bottle **\$.79**

Select Varieties
Shurfine Select Group Canned
Vegetables
3 12-15.5 oz. cans **/\$1**

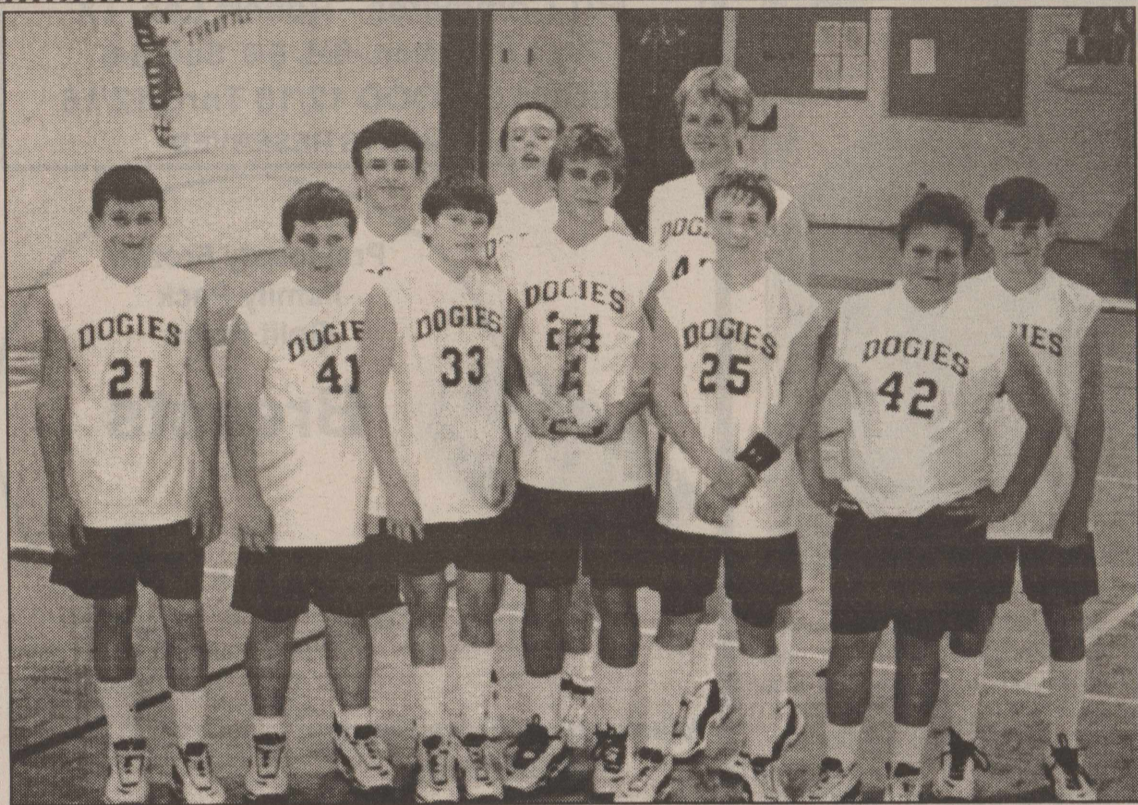


Western Family Transparent
1/2 Inch Tape
800 Inch Roll **3/\$1**

Coca Cola, Sprite or Dasani Water
3 6 Pk 1/2 Liter Bottles **/\$5**



ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS



The Robert Lee Dogies "A" team received the Championship Trophy at the Water Valley Tournament by first defeating Water Valley 51-19 and then defeating Garden City 24-17.

Robert Lee boys basketball results

In the 1st round of the Irion County Tournament, on Dec. 4th, the varsity boys lost to Irion County by a score of 41-78. Scoring for Robert Lee: Ruben Torres led with a total of 12 points followed by Cole Flanagan with 11. Andy Mulkey and Josh Conner each scored 6. Phillip Arellano and Omar Saucedo scored 3 each.

In the 2nd round, the varsity boys won against Brooksmith by a score of 44-21. Phillip Arellano and Cole Flanagan each scored 12 points with Ruben Torres following with 8. Omar Saucedo had 6, Andy Mulkey 4 and Evan Braswell 2.

In the consolation game on Saturday, Robert Lee lost to Miles by a score of 28 to 63. Scoring for Robert Lee were Evan Braswell with 6, Phillip Arellano 5, and Andy Mulkey 4.

Ruben Torres, Lance Millican and Branden Soliz had 3 each, followed by Omar Saucedo and Josh Conner with 2 each.

In the 1st round of the Grape Creek JV Tournament, the JV boys won against Cornerstone by a score of 44-28. Leading the scoring for Robert Lee was Kevin Honse with 16, Vincent McClelland 8, Clay Antilley 7, Eric Hayes 6, Branden Phillips 4, and Jonathan Pagan with 3.

In the 2nd round on Friday, the JV lost to Grape Creek by a score of 13-49. Scoring for Robert Lee were Kevin Honse with 9, Eric Hayes and Vincent McClelland each had 2.

In the 3rd place game on Saturday, Robert Lee lost to Ballinger by a score of 22-30. Scoring for Robert Lee were Kevin Honse with 11, Vincent McClelland 7, and Clay Antilley and Jonathan Pagan with 2 each.

On December 2nd, the varsity boys lost to Christoval by a score of 46-62. Phillip Arellano led with 15 points followed by Josh Conner's 11. Andy Mulkey had 8, Cole Flanagan 4, Ruben Torres and Josh Alexander each had 3 followed by Evan Braswell with 2.

The JV boys lost a very close game against Christoval JV by a score of 37-38. Vincent

McClelland led with 14 points, followed by Eric Hayes with 9, Kevin Honse 8, and Clay Antilley and Jonathan Pagan each had 3.

Robert Lee girls basketball results

On the 2nd of December, the varsity girls won against Christoval by a score of 48-29. Scoring for Robert Lee were Jessica Fluhmann 11, Julia Cruz 6, Tyler Lott 6, Brittany Soliz 2, Julie Riley 2, Cara Eaton 10, Cassidy Wink 3, Lindsey Roe 1, Kayli Dickey 2, and Michele Sanchez 5.

In the Irion County Tournament, on December 4th, Robert Lee varsity girls lost their first game to Brooksmith by a close score of 42-46. Scoring for Robert Lee were Fluhmann 7, Monica Rodriguez 6, Cruz 2, Lott 5, Riley 2, Eaton 15 and Sanchez 4.

In the second game of the tournament, Robert Lee lost another close game to Rankin by a score of 29-34. Scoring for Robert Lee were Rodriguez 4,

Lott 2, Soliz 1, Riley 4, Eaton 5, Wink 12, and Sanchez 1.

In the third game came back to win against Eldorado by a score of 42-35. Scoring for Robert Lee were Fluhmann 2, Rodriguez 2, Lott 4, Riley 12, Eaton 10, Wink 6, and Sanchez 6.

On the 2nd of December the Robert Lee JV girls won against Christoval by a score of 38-19. Scoring for Robert Lee were Becca Skinner 2, Katie Bessent 2, Christian Kelly 4, Brettne Reed 15, Sarah Phillely 6, and Kelsy Duncan with 9.

In the Grape Creek JV Tournament starting on December 4th, Robert Lee JV lost the first game to Cornerstone 31-44. Scoring for Robert Lee were Jaden Alexander 6, Kyla Millican 2, Skinner 4, Skinner 2, Reed 2, Phillely 10, Duncan 3, and Stephanie Trejo 2.

In the second game, Robert Lee won against Irion County JV by a score of 50-31. Scoring for Robert Lee were Alexander 2, Millican 4, Skinner 8, Bessent 2, Kelly 8, Reed 13, Phillely 5, Duncan 4, Trejo 2, and Amanda Valery 2.

In the third game, Robert Lee won over Miles by a score of 46-17. Scoring for Robert Lee were Millican 2, Skinner 16, Millican 2, Reed 10, Phillely 7, Duncan 8, and Trejo 2.

In the Consolation Finals, Robert Lee took on Ballinger and won by a score of 45-38. Scoring for Robert Lee were Nicole Fields 2, Millican 4, Skinner 7, Kelly 3, Reed 11, Phillely 16, and Duncan 2.

On December 8th, at Miles, the RLJH "A" girls won against Miles "A" team by a score of 27-18. Scoring for Robert Lee were Kasie Skinner 2, Allison Millican 4, Megan Percifull 4, Andrea Pineda 3, Ashley Hopson 2, and Molly Burns with 12.

The RLJH "B" team lost to the Miles "B" team by a score of 14-43. Scoring for Robert Lee were Arrin Minjarez with 6 and Olga Perez with 8.

RLISD UIL Awards Assembly rescheduled

The UIL Awards Assembly for Robert Lee Elementary and Junior High will be held on Friday, December 19 at 9:30 am in the school auditorium.

Parents and community members are invited to attend. For additional information about UIL or the Awards Assembly, please contact Jill Lankford or Janet Wallace at 453-4555.

Movie Stars to perform in Robert Lee

The 4th, 5th, and 6th grades of Robert Lee Elementary school will be presenting a musical on Tuesday, December 16th at 6:30 pm in the school auditorium. Everyone is invited to attend this delightful play, "Holly and the Ivy League." There will be singing and dancing elves and reindeer for your entertainment. Santa will be there, too. We hope to see you there!

Silent auction to benefit RLHS Spanish Club

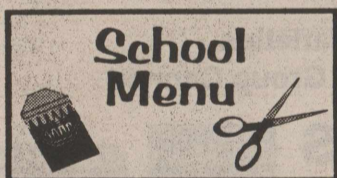
The silent auction will be a new fundraising idea that the Robert Lee High School Spanish Club will be trying out this year.

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.



School Menu

Breakfast

Monday, Dec. 15

Juice, burrito, cereal, milk

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Juice, pancake & sausage on stick, cereal, milk

Wed., Dec. 17

Juice, cinnamon roll, cereal, milk

Thurs., Dec. 18

Juice, biscuit, sausage, cereal, milk

Friday, Dec. 19

Juice, muffin, cereal, milk

Lunch

Monday, Dec. 15

Frito pie, cheese, corn, salad, peaches, milk

Tuesday, Dec. 16

B-B-Q wieners, mac & cheese, green beans, sliced bread, applesauce, milk

Wed., Dec. 17

Corn dog, broccoli & carrot w/dip, chips, fresh fruit, milk

Thurs., Dec. 18

Chicken fajitas, salad, Spanish rice, ranch beans, pudding w/cookie, milk

Friday, Dec. 19

Hamburger, salad, pickles, chips, pears, milk

Flowers, Balloons & Gift Wrapping

This 'N That Shop
717 Austin • Robert Lee

WINK INSURANCE AGENCY

Home • Auto
Life • Commercial

715 Austin • 453-4551



This Holiday Season



Please patronize our local businesses!

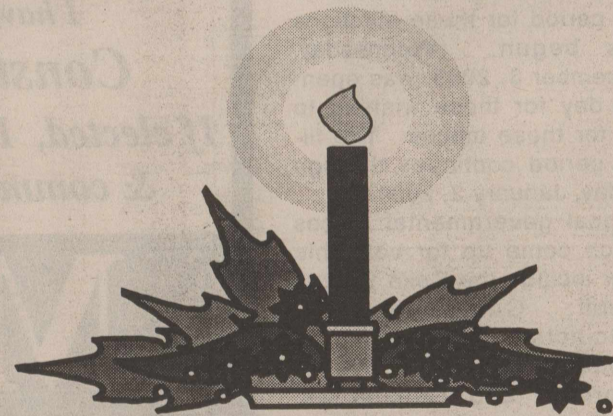
Bell Auto Body Shop
Robert Lee 453-2640



Join us for our

Christmas Open House
Friday, December 12, 2003

9:00 am to 3:00 pm



Robert Lee
State Bank

Member FDIC

621 Austin Street
Robert Lee, Texas

Phone 453-2545
Tele-Bank 453-2585

BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS

Bronte Longhorn football All-District

1st team - offense

QB - Cody Lee
RB - Garrett Fiveash
Line - Justin Moore

2nd team - offense

RB - Tyson Baker
Rec. - BJ Hall
Line - Justin Frazee
Return Specialist - Tyson Baker

1st team - defense

Line - Justin Moore
Linebacker - Chase Williams
Secondary - Cody Lee

2nd team - defense

Line - Clayton Adams
Linebacker - Cody Moore
End - Joseph Israel
Secondary - Tyson Baker

Academic All-District

Joseph Israel, Josh Eubanks, Chase Williams, Tyson Baker

Honorable Mention

Offense - Josh Eubanks

Bronte school to present Christmas Concert

The Bronte High School Music Department will present the annual Christmas Concert on Friday, Dec. 19th at 10 am in the school auditorium. The 4th grade recorder band will begin the concert, followed by the 5th grade beginning and the 6th grade intermediate band. The high school concert band will end the concert. The program will last approximately fifty minutes. Admission is free.

Bronte Longhorn basketball results

The Bronte varsity boys basketball team won against Blackwell by a score of 58-30. Scoring for Bronte were BJ Hall with 17 points, 5 rebounds, 5 steals; Cody Lee 4 points, 6 rebounds; Tyson Baker 14 points; Garrett Fiveash 2 points; Logan Rawls 13 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists; Chase Williams 2 points; Riley Coalson 4

points, and Zach White 2 points.

In the 1st game of the Roby Tournament, Bronte won a close game over Hamlin by a score of 45-42. Scoring for Bronte were BJ Hall with 10 points; Cody Lee 6 points; Tyson Baker 11 points; Garrett Fiveash 5 points; Logan Rawls 7 points; and Riley Coalson 6 points.

In the 2nd game of the tournament, Bronte lost to Colorado City by a score of 35-60. Scoring for Bronte were BJ Hall 4 points; Cody Lee 4 points; Tyson Baker 12 points; Garrett Fiveash 3 points; Logan Rawls 10 points, and Chase Williams 2 points.

For 3rd place, Bronte won over Roby by a score of 47-26. Scoring for Bronte were Tyson Baker 10 points; Logan Rawls 7 points; Garrett Fiveash 1 point; Riley Coalson 5 points; BJ Hall 22 points, and Chase Williams 2 points.

Tyler Baker was named All Tournament.

Bronte JH District UIL results 7th grade

Matthew Allen - Maps, Graphs, Charts, Number Sense, Science, Editorial Writing

Eddie May - Maps, Graphs, Charts, Dictionary Skills

Israel Cecilio - Science
Samuel Rawlings - Ready Writing

Reece Springer - Calculators, Maps, Graphs & Charts

Nicole Reed - Dictionary Skills

Miranda Riney - Dictionary Skills

Will Macon - Science

Crystal Minjarez - Mathematics, Calculators

Johnnye Michael - Mathematics, Calculators

Jessi England - Impromptu

Lora Martinez - Oral Reading, Dictionary Skills, Spelling, Science, Editorial Writing

Casey Harris - Editorial Writing

Paul McConnell - Mathematics, Maps, Graphs, Charts, Science

Emily Austin - Ready Writing

Brittany Sarrett - Ready Writing

Holly Huskerson - Impromptu Speaking, Number Sense, Listening Skills

Justin Jowers - Mathematics

Terrah Macon - Impromptu Speaking, Listening Skills

Savannah Martinez - Ready Writing

Brett Wills - Calculator, Listening Skills

Kyle Nealey - Calculator,

Number Sense, Maps, Graphs, Charts

Gus Saunders - Dictionary Skills

Zack Bennett - Dictionary Skills

Cody Wallace - Mathematics, Science

The following students placed in:

8th grade

Ready Writing - 1st - Emily Austin; 4th - Savannah Martinez

Editorial Writing - 1st - Lora Martinez; 3rd - Casey Harris

Maps, Graphs & Charts - 3rd - Paul McConnell

Spelling - 5th - Lora Martinez

Dictionary Skills - 3rd - Gus Saunders; 6th - Zack Bennett

Dictionary Skills Team - 2nd place - Gus Saunders, Zack Bennett, Lora Martinez

Mathematics - 6th - Cody Wallace

Science - 3rd - Paul McConnell

Science Team - 2nd Paul McConnell, Lora Martinez, Cody Wallace

Impromptu Speaking - 1st - Holly Huskerson

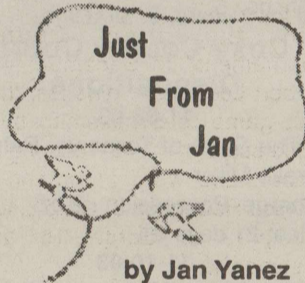
Listening Skills - 1st - Holly Huskerson

7th grade

Ready Writing - 3rd - Ariel Coalson; 5th - Jessi England

Editorial Writing - 5th - Matt Allen

Dictionary Skills Team - Tied 3rd place - Eddie May, Nicole Reed, Miranda Riney



by Jan Yanez
Cooperative
Extension Agent

De-stress Your Holidays

Christmas shopping, high-pressure family dinners ... the holidays can be as stressful as they are merry. With a little help, though, you can enjoy this season without feeling like Scrooge.

The four sources of stress during the holidays are fantasies, family, food and finance. People often get so caught up in the eating, drinking, partying and shopping, that there

is no time for spiritual reflection and quiet nurturing.

So nurture your sanity this holiday season with these tips.

Just say "no." Be realistic about how many parties you can actually attend. Remember that saying yes to every invitation could result in burnout. Also, going to tons of parties presents more challenges to your diet than you might want.

Stay in your groove. Carve out time for yourself * and jealously guard it. If you have an exercise routine, such as walking every other day, keep that as your anchor, and try to make holiday chores and events revolve around your exercise schedule, not the other way around.

Take baby steps. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the enormity of holiday tasks, like sending out 114 holiday cards. Certain tasks are more doable when broken into chunks. For example, you could purchase the cards a month before Christmas or Hanukkah and write a few at a time over the next several weeks. Then, address all the envelopes. If you have kids, why not enlist them to stuff envelopes and put on the stamps?

Appoint a "designated nagger." Give your partner or a close friend permission to nag you when you start worrying too much. Have your "designated nagger" tell you to slow down and take a deep breath as soon as you begin worrying too much about overeating, not exercising enough or finding the perfect gift for everyone down to your boss's

cat. Big holiday draw. Sit down with your family early in the holiday season and discuss the sources of stress and conflict that always seem to rear up this time of year. Then distribute crayons and paper, and have everyone draw pictures of your "family stress image" * a big ogre wearing a Santa hat or a giant present exploding like a firecracker, for example. This is a great way to get out your frustration in a positive way.

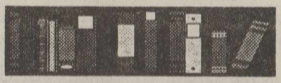
Revel in the scent of solitude. Light a lavender-scented candle in your bathroom and take a hot bath, or use some lavender-scented bath oil. A recent study on aromatherapy reported in the International Journal of Neurosciences stated that the scent of lavender helped adult test subjects feel more relaxed and perform mental calculations more accurately.

Walk it out. Take a nice long walk and focus on smelling the crisp winter air or watching snow falling for a form of meditation.

Immerse yourself in music. Listen to a tape of holiday songs, or make your own recording by dubbing a set of your favorite tunes onto a cassette tape or CD.

Stroll down memory lane. Fill a hatbox or shoe box with objects that are important to you, such as your child's first tooth, family photos, postcards, love letters or inspirational poems or quotes. Whenever stress looms, take out your box and enjoy the warm feelings your mementos inspire.

School Menu



Breakfast

Monday, Dec. 15

Cereal, pears, toast, jelly, milk

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Breakfast burrito, assorted juice, milk

Wed., Dec. 17

French toast sticks, assorted juice, syrup, milk

Thurs., Dec. 18

Scrambled eggs, hashbrowns, toast, jelly, milk

Friday, Dec. 19

Peanut butter sandwich, assorted juice, milk

Lunch

Monday, Dec. 15

Tacos with cheese, refried beans, lettuce & tomato, Spanish rice, taco shell, chocolate pudding, milk

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Chicken spaghetti, tossed salad, corn on the cob, mixed fruit, bread sticks, milk

Wed., Dec. 17

Hot dogs, chili & cheese, tator tots, baked beans, orange half, bun, milk

Thurs., Dec. 18

Sliced turkey, gravy, creamed potatoes, green beans, rolls, spice cake, milk

Friday, Dec. 19

Cheeseburgers, lettuce, tomato, pickle, French fries, bun, sugar cookies, milk

GLENN-BIVINS INSURANCE



See us for your auto insurance.

123 W. Main

Bronte

473-6791

THE HANDYMAN CONSTRUCTION CO.

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN • INSURED & BONDABLE
ANY TYPE OF JOB • TURN KEY METAL BUILDINGS

IF YOU HAVE A JOB THAT YOU CAN'T GET DONE
IN BRONTE OR ROBERT LEE
CALL TOMMY WILLIAMS

ROBERT LEE, TX
325-453-4477 • MOBILE: 325-277-7370

Holiday Open House

Friday, December 12

9 am to 1 pm

Everyone is invited to Attend

First National Bank

in Bronte

473-2911

Bronte, Texas

Member FDIC



Members of the Robert Lee 4-H club made Christmas cards that will be given to the residents of the nursing home. Each year, both Bronte and Robert Lee 4-H members perform this community service project.

**WCC EMS Memorials
November 2003**

Mary Wright Gayle
Chrys & Lawrence Higgins
Mildred McAdoo
Gloria Ledbetter

**WTRC Telethon
set for January 17**

Coke County residents have an opportunity between now and midnight on January 17 to help West Texas Rehabilitation Center by making a gift to REHAB 2004, the Center's 34th annual telethon.

Diane Lockett is spearheading the Bronte solicitation effort and has arranged for a phone bank to be in operation on telethon night. Donors may call 473-4821 to make a pledge during the telethon.

In Robert Lee, the 64 Study Club will operate their phone bank at Ivey Motor Company. Donors may call 453-2715 to pledge during the telethon. Those who won't be able to call in January 17 are encouraged to make advance donations to community volunteers.

The five-hour television special will be aired from 7 pm to midnight on ten Texas stations, including KLST-TV in San Angelo.

In addition to entertainment, the telethon showcases the services of the Center which provides care annually to more than 22,000 children and adults with disabilities and communication disorders at facilities in Abilene, San Angelo, and Ozona.

Also, the show includes an auction of more than 300 items donated by businesses and individuals ranging from agricultural products and autos to celebrity items and travel packages. Interested persons may bid online at www.WestTexasRehab.org beginning mid-December or by phone on January 17.

"The telethon is a critical fundraiser for Rehab because we count on it to launch the New Year in a good position to meet the needs of those we'll serve in the next 12 months," said WTRC President Woody Gilliland. "That's why we're so grateful to local volunteers staffing phone banks...why every advance gift and every pledge called in during the show are so deeply appreciated."

**County Sheriff's
arrests/charges filed
November 2003**

Collin Reese Jones - Open container of alcohol in vehicle - 11-01-03

Kevin Blain Sutherlin - Driving while intoxicated 1st - 11-02-03
Delfino Ruiz Navarro - Disorderly conduct - Discharge firearm on or across a public road - Interference with public duties - 11-02-03

Marlon Kyle Alexander - Driving while intoxicated 3rd or more - Evading arrest with motor vehicle - Unauthorized use of motor vehicle - 11-09-03

James Albert Sizemore - Possession of marijuana <2 oz. - 11-15-03

Douglas Edward Seitzinger - Possession of marijuana <2 oz. - 11-16-03

Aaron James Oliver - Open container of alcohol in vehicle - 11-16-03

Michelle Marie Fields - Theft by check - 11-17-03

Shawn T. Scruggs - Open container of alcohol in vehicle - 11-19-03

Veronica Rojas - Minor in consumption of alcohol - 11-21-03

Carlos Alvarado - Driving while license suspended/Motion to revoke probation - 11-25-03

Jason Wayne Beasley - Waste of game - 11-29-03

**Out of County
Warrants Served**

Collin Reese Jones - Theft by check (Kerr County) - Theft by check (Anderson County) - Failure to appear X 2 - Tom Green County - Issuance of bad check X 2 - Tom Green County - 11-01-03

Marlon Kyle Alexander - Evading arrest and detention - Taylor County Warrant - 11-09-03

Edgar Dan Timms - Theft (checks)-Tom Green County Warrant - 11-25-03

**51st District Court
Dispositions
11-03-03**

The State of Texas vs: Kailee Michel Radloff
Charge: Assault of a public servant
Plea: 3 years Deferred Adjudication, \$500 fine

The State of Texas vs: William David Levens
Charge: Driving while intoxicated 3rd or more
Plea: 6 years, TDCJ probated for 6 years, \$1,000 fine

The State of Texas vs: Patrick Drake Miller
Charge: Tamper/fabricated physical evidence with intent to impair
Plea: 3 years ID - TDCJ, probated for 3 years, \$1,000 fine

**Coke County Court
Dispositions
11-03-03**

The State of Texas vs: Patrick Drake Miller
Charge: Possession <2 oz.
Plea: 21 days jail

The State of Texas vs: Michael David Martin
Charge: Driving while intoxicated
Plea: Pre-Trial Intervention

The State of Texas vs: Kelly Jean Head
Charge: Driving while intoxicated
Plea: Pre-Trial Intervention

The State of Texas vs: Matthew Blake Goldsmith
Charge: Driving while intoxicated - Motion to revoke probation
Plea: Probation revoked, \$92 court cost, credit given for 47 days jail time

The State of Texas vs: Melissa Marie Laird
Charge: Driving while license suspended - Motion to revoke probation
Plea: Probation revoked, credit given for 30 days jail time, court cost \$136

The State of Texas vs: Samuel Almanaz Minjarez



Lula Stilley, a longtime Bronte resident, celebrated her 85th birthday November 23, 2003. Two of her three sons and their families were there to help with the celebration. Those attending included Vern and Sharon Stilley of Fort Stockton, Texas, Walt and Zane Stilley, Kassie and Nathan of Odessa, Texas, Vaughn and Kristen Stilley of Bronte, and daughter-in-law Debbie Stilley and LeAnn of Midlothian, Texas. Vearl Stilley was unable to attend his mother's celebration since he is currently on active duty and is stationed in San Antonio, Texas.

Charge: Possession of marijuana <2 oz.

Plea: 9 months deferred adjudication, \$300 fine, \$201 court cost, 40 hours community service

The State of Texas vs: Shannon Renee Cleveland
Charge: Possession of marijuana <2 oz.

Plea: 6 months deferred adjudication, \$400 fine, \$176 court cost

The State of Texas vs: Jose Luis Granados Jr.
Charge: Driving while license suspended

Plea: 30 days jail, probated 6 months, \$100 fine, \$236 court cost, 40 hours community service

The State of Texas vs: Kenneth Earl Goldman
Charge: Driving while intoxicated 1st

Plea: 30 days jail, probated 12 months, \$1,000 fine, \$251 court

cost, 40 hours community service, DWI school

The State of Texas vs: Edgar Dan Timms
Charge: Assault causes bodily injury/family member

Plea: 12 mo. deferred adjudication, \$500 fine, \$201 court cost, \$63.92 restitution, 40 hours community service

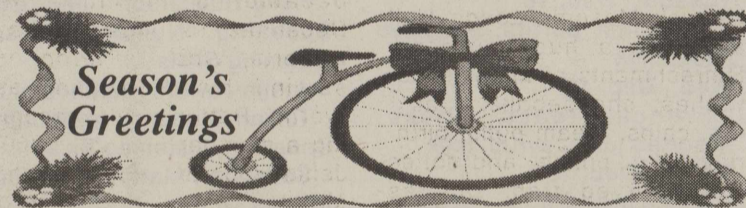
The State of Texas vs: Rachel Albarado

Charge: Theft by check
Plea: 6 months deferred adjudication, \$100 fine, \$261 court cost, \$91.66 restitution

The State of Texas vs: Jacob Warren Kepple
Charge: Purchase/furnish alcohol to a minor

Plea: \$300 fine, \$211 court cost
The State of Texas vs: Sophie Michelle Rodriguez
Charge: Purchase/furnish alcohol to a minor

Plea: \$300 fine, \$211 court cost



I am announcing my Candidacy for Commissioner, Precinct #1. I have lived in the County for over 30 years, farming and ranching and I have over 20 years experience in heavy equipment, road construction, and seal coating. If elected, I will do my job to the best of my ability.

Troy (Gene) Montgomery
I appreciate your support.

pd. pol. adv. by Gene Montgomery

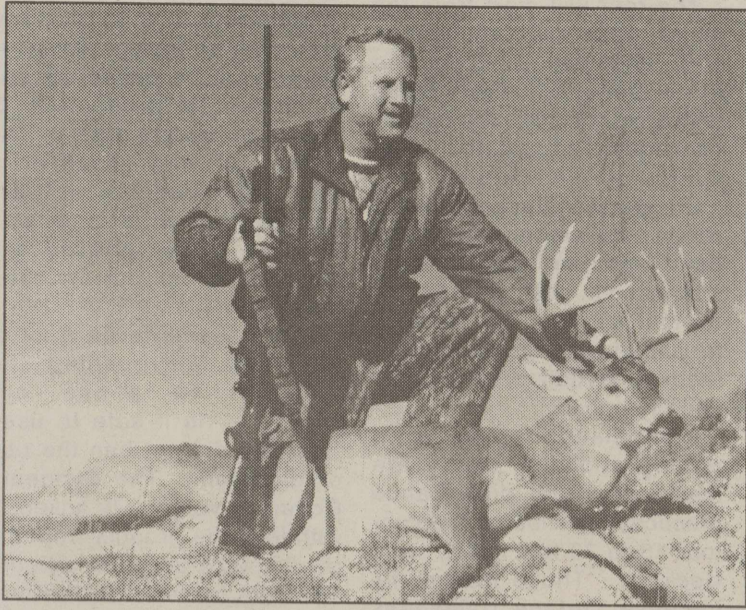
TRANSFER YOUR IRA.

It's not as difficult as you think.

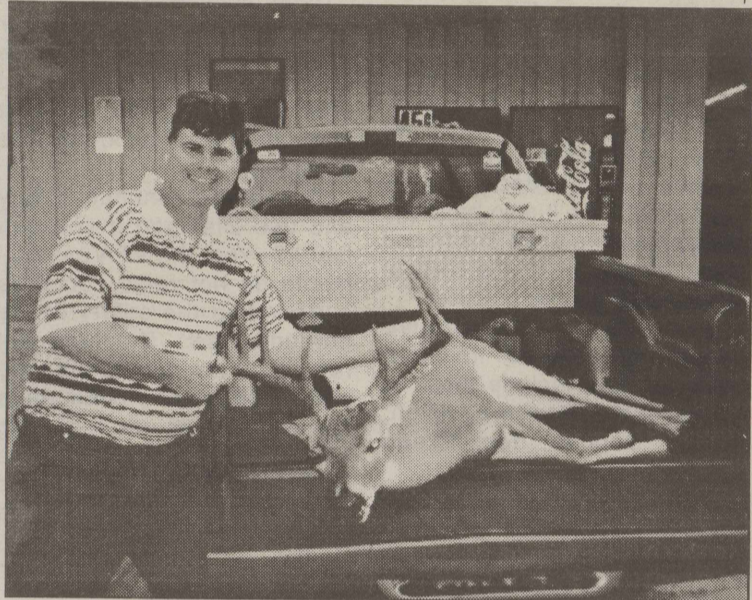
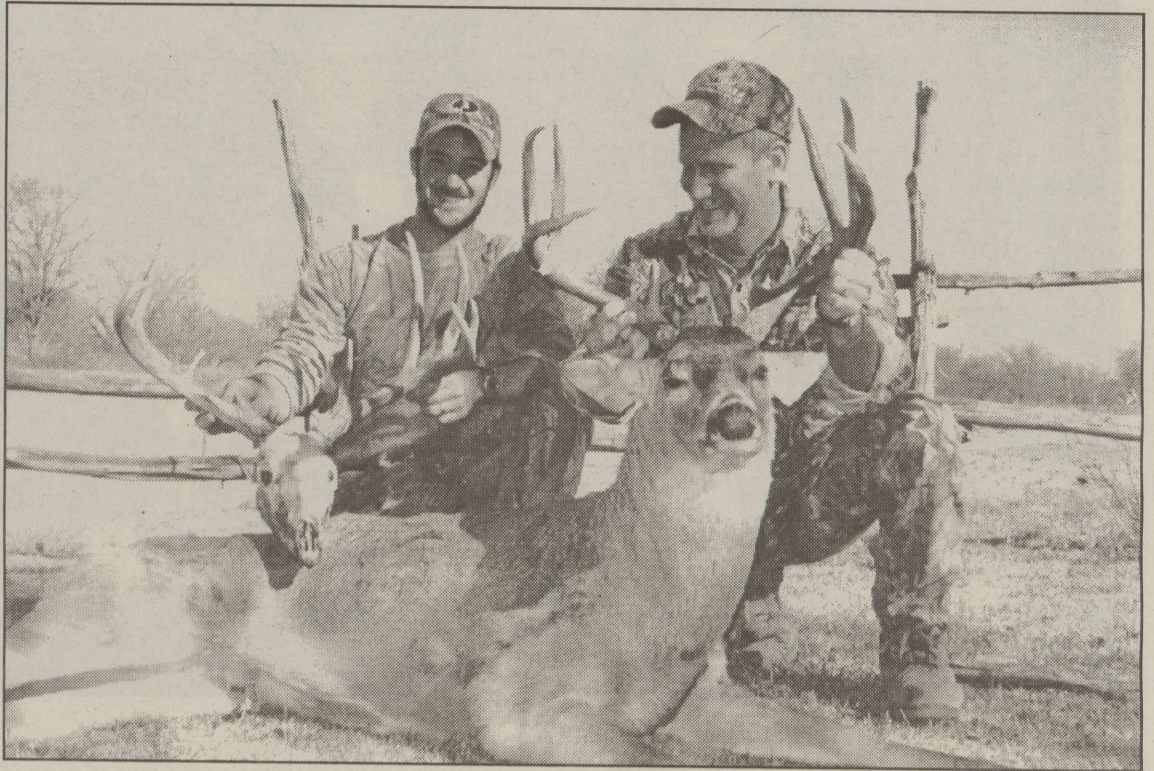


JIM WOODRUFF
719 Strong Avenue
Ballinger, TX 76821
(915) 365-2505
1-800-995-1252
www.edwardjones.com

EdwardJones
Serving Individual Investors Since 1871
Member SIPC



Ron Dickey of Robert Lee guided these lucky hunters on hunts in the Texas Panhandle recently. Joe Montalto (above) of Alabama took this 10 point, 145 class deer. Jamie McClure (right photo, from left) and Jeff Edwards of Georgia took these really nice bucks on their hunting excursion.



This 12 point buck was taken earlier this season on the Tidwell Ranch west of Bronte by Tim Tedesco of Corpus Christi, Texas. The buck was 7 1/2 years old and field dressed at 142 pounds. A biologist scored him 158 7/8.

RL Eastern Star Chapter celebrates 100th birthday

By Jeffie Roberts
Robert Lee Eastern Star Chapter No. 187 celebrated its 100th birthday November 16, 2003. The Chapter's original name was Hayrick Chapter No. 187 and its charter October 15, 1903. May 8, 1930, by request of the Worthy Grand Matron, the Chapter changed the name to conform with the name of the town, being Robert Lee Chapter No. 187, O.E.S.

The Celebration Tea was held from 2:00-4:00 pm in the Hayrick Masonic Lodge Hall and was a huge success. Refreshments of finger sandwiches, cheeseballs, crackers, chips, cream puffs, birthday cake, punch, and coffee were served from Dolores

Roe's beautiful silver punch bowl and trays.

A short program was held in the chapter room at 3:00 pm with Beverly Sinclair, Chairman of the 100th Celebration Committee, serving as Master of Ceremonies. Beverly welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this special occasion. Dolores Roe, Worthy Matron, highlighted the history of the chapter written by Jeffie Roberts. Dolores is the second generation of three generations of her family who are and were members of Robert Lee Chapter, she became a member in December 15, 1958. Bobby Roberts, Worthy Patron, is serving his 14th year as Worthy Patron since becoming a member May 26, 1960. Jeffie Roberts, Deputy Grand Matron, District 5 Section 1

and member of the 100th Celebration Committee, introduced those present. Elaine Luce of Poteet sang several Patsy Cline and Gospel songs. Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Doris Hester and Worthy Grand Patron, Bro. Jack Guy, gave greetings, words of wisdom, and remarks.

Twenty-five non-members were present. Among those introduced were community leaders; Roy Blair, Coke County Judge and Marshall Millican, Coke County Deputy Sheriff, both are members of the Robert Lee-Silver Lions Club, Bonita Copeland, City Council member, Weldon Fikes and Leslie Copeland, deacons of Robert Lee Baptist Church, Jimmy Bickley, 23 years as superintendent of Robert Lee Independent School District now retired, and Douglas Roberts, Coke County TxDOT Transportation Maintenance Supervisor. Many helped in preparing for the coming of the visitors from many places in Texas. The Lions Club placed the U.S.A. flags in their usual places in Robert Lee, the city mowed some lots, TXDOT and saw that the Texas Highways into Robert Lee were in good shape, and Commissioner George Snapp saw that the county road that some traveled was in good shape. The Observer/Enterprise, First United Methodist Church and Robert Lee Baptist Church helped with the publicity. T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Accomplishes More).

Registering the 119 guests

were Jackie Walker and Melba Gray, members of the 100th Celebration Committee. Other chapter members assisting with refreshments and serving were Nancy Allen, Dovie Cummins, Buddy and Gayna Eldred, Jim and Reba Tabor, James (Red) Stephens, and Keith and Lanette Fletcher, Worthy Patron and Worthy Matron of Bronte Chapter No. 1048.

Among the 119 guests were Nancy Allen, Past Grand Matron, 10 Grand Floor Officers and Elected Boards, 3 Deputy Grand Matrons, 34 plus other Grand Officers, and 47 members from our section, District 5 Section 1. Cities represented were Abilene, Amarillo, Arlington, Austin, Ballinger, Bandera, Beeville, Blackwell, Bronte, Buda, Carlsbad, Colorado City, Jacksonville, Jourdanton, Kerrville, Miles, Midland, New Braunfels, Odessa, Ozona, Plano, Pleasanton, Poteet, Rankin, Robert Lee, San Angelo, San Antonio, Weatherford and Winters.

Sorosis Club news

Submitted by Swan Archinal
The Sorosis Club of Bronte met in the home of Marilyn Bivins on Thursday, November 20. Charlotte Tounget and Peggy Hembree were co-hostesses.

Mary Glenn reported that

they have given substantial gifts to the Friends of the Pool and the Coke County Food Bank. Some club members assisted with the Bronte Care Center party by bringing covered dishes.

The program was presented by 5th and 6th grade students under the direction of Mrs. Kathy Howell. They did their readings that they will do for UIL competition. Fifth graders participating were Kerwin Rawls and Kelsey Sedden and the 6th graders were Chelsea Cook and Ashley Royall. This is a program that club members all look forward to and enjoy each year.

The club will be on a float in the Christmas parade "Rocking' around the Christmas Tree". The next meeting will be the Christmas party with spouses.

Members present were Marilyn Bivins, Celia Bowden, Lanette Fletcher, Mary Francis Glenn, Mary Glenn, Peggy Hembree, Joan Lightfoot, Diane Luckett, Fredna Moore, LouAnna Peters, Doris Sims, Charlotte Tounget and Janet Wommack. Guests were the 5th and 6th graders with Terry Rawls, Rhonda Sedden and Stephanie Turner with sons Easton and Taylor.

The Chinese auction was won by Diane Luckett. She received a wooden Christmas bowl.

Home for Christmas

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**

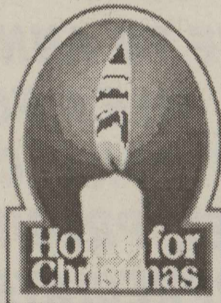
6 pm Worship Service

Bronte United Methodist Church

224 West Holmes Avenue in Bronte • 325/473-3281

Bring a Friend and come home for Christmas!

The United Methodist Church



*In honor of the
Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary
of*

Jug and Jerry Lawhon

their children and grandchildren

*request the pleasure of your company
at a Reception*

on Sunday, the twenty-first of December

two thousand and three

two until four o'clock in the afternoon

First Baptist Church

424 South Washington

Bronte, Texas

No gifts, please



Voting delegates representing the Coke-Sterling Farm Bureau at the 70th annual Texas Farm Bureau convention in Waco December 7-8 were (from left) Bobby Roberts, President; Jeffie Roberts; John Stephens, Vice President; Kay Robbins; and Alonzo Robbins, Secretary.

Locals participate in annual TFB convention

Bobby and Jeffie Roberts, John Stephens, and Alonzo and Kay Robbins, voting delegates from Coke-Sterling County Farm Bureau, recently participated in the 70th annual Texas Farm Bureau convention December 7-8 in Waco.

Policies directing the state's largest farm organization were adopted by more than 1,200 delegates from 207 organized Farm Bureaus. Approved recommendations on national policies will advance to the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting to be held in January in Hawaii.

Addressing the delegates were Kenneth Dierschke of San Angelo, TFB president; Dale Jeske of Alamo, secretary-treasurer; and Vernie Glasson, TFB executive director. The business session covered the final day of the meeting. The last order of business was the election of the president, Kenneth Dierschke of San Angelo.

This year's youth winners were Marissa Patton of Stamford, Miss Farm Bureau; William Rutherford of Uvalde, Talent Find winner; and Marissa Patton of Stamford, Free Enterprise Speech winner.

Named "Outstanding Young Farmer/Rancher of 2003" was Donnell Brown of Throckmorton.

RL PIPS practice & performance schedule announced

The Robert Lee PIPs will practice at 6 pm December 11, and 18.

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.

Emergency farm loan applications being accepted

Applications for emergency farm loans for losses due to damages and losses caused by drought that occurred from January 1, 2003, and continuing, are being accepted at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office located in Sweetwater.

Coke County was recently

named by Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman as eligible for loans to cover part of actual production losses resulting from the drought.

Roger W. Kalina, Farm Loan Manager, said farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 100% of their actual losses of the operating loan needed to continue the agricultural business, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest rate is 3.75 percent.

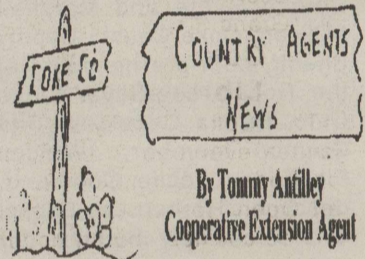
As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of production to be eligible for an FSA emergency loan. Farmers participating in the Federal Crop Insurance program will have to consider proceeds from those programs in determining their loss.

Applications for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until 7/6/2004, but farmers should apply as soon as possible. Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing, with possible delays into the new farming season.

FSA is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognized farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living. Eligibility is extended to individual farmers who meet U.S. citizenship

requirements and to farming partnerships, corporations or cooperatives in which U.S. citizenship requirements are met by individuals holding a majority interest.

The FSA office in Sweetwater is open from 7:30 to 5:00, Monday through Friday.



Range Restoration workshop slated for December 17

Texas Cooperative Extension and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES) are sponsoring a "Rangeland Restoration Tour" on the San Angelo State School lands at Carlsbad beginning at 1:30 p.m. December 17. The tour is designed to show the restorative effects of ripping, seeding and weed control on severely degraded rangeland.

Do your Christmas Shopping at

**This 'N That Shop
717 Austin • Robert Lee**

I WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THAT I HAVE FILED FOR RE-ELECTION AS COKE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT IN MY BID FOR RE-ELECTION AS COKE COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF PRECINCT 3.

**GAYLON PITCOCK
COMMISSIONER, PCT. 3**

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Gaylon Pitcock

The tour will start from the white barn located across U.S. Highway 87 from the state school. Two Texas Department of Agriculture continuing educations units (CEU's) will be offered.

Dr. Darrell Ueckert, TAES range researcher, and the day's speaker, said anyone interested in economically and ecologically feasible methods for improving degraded rangeland is invited and encouraged to attend.

"Rangeland ripping, wing ripping and disk diking are mechanical soil disturbance practices installed on the contour 15 to 30 feet apart," said Ueckert. "These treatments increase surface roughness which slows runoff, thus helping water soak into the soil. Ripping alone increased the 2003 grass production three-fold on the site we'll visit during the tour. Ripping and spraying for weed control increased grass production eighteen-fold.

"The tour will show vegetative responses on areas ripped and seeded in 1996 and 2002. We'll also have the equipment we used onsite and have information on the costs of implementing these practices."

The Texas Cooperative Extension offices involved with the tour include those in Glasscock, Sterling, Irion, Coke, Concho, Tom Green and Schleicher counties.

For further information contact the Extension office at (325)453-2461.

Diazinon use update

The Syngenta Crop Protection company has planned a phase out of the sales of the insecticide Diazinon by December 31, 2004. What does this mean

to homeowners?

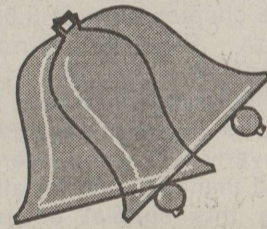
According to this company, a number of factors played in the role of the phase out and discontinued production of Diazinon insecticide. The phase out was based on a thorough analysis of its financial performance and was decided to be phased out strictly as a bottom line decision.

There seems to be a lot of questions surrounding the decision to phase out Diazinon. Is it safe to use? The EPA did not ban the use of diazinon. The Syngenta Company voluntarily asked to withdraw the product from the marketplace and EPA agreed. The EPA further decided that the margin of safety levels for labeled uses of Diazinon was completely safe for the public and do not have concerns for its use.

Retail sales of Diazinon will be terminated on December 31, 2004. People who have purchased Diazinon can continue to use the product after 2004 until all quantities are gone.

Should you continue to buy and use Diazinon if you can find it? Yes, the EPA assessments do not raise concerns surrounding the safety of the products use. Diazinon will remain on the market until the end of 2004, and consumers can continue its use it as long as you have some. It is still a viable product to use for good insecticide control, and as long as the labeled use is followed it is determine to be safe for the public.

Questions on the safety and use of Diazinon can be explained by contacting the Coke County Extension office at 453-2461.



Friends & Customers of

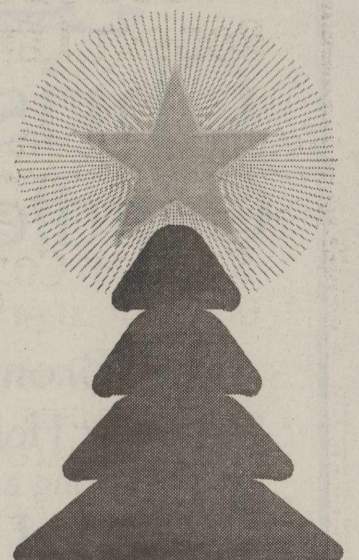
IVEY MOTOR COMPANY, INC.

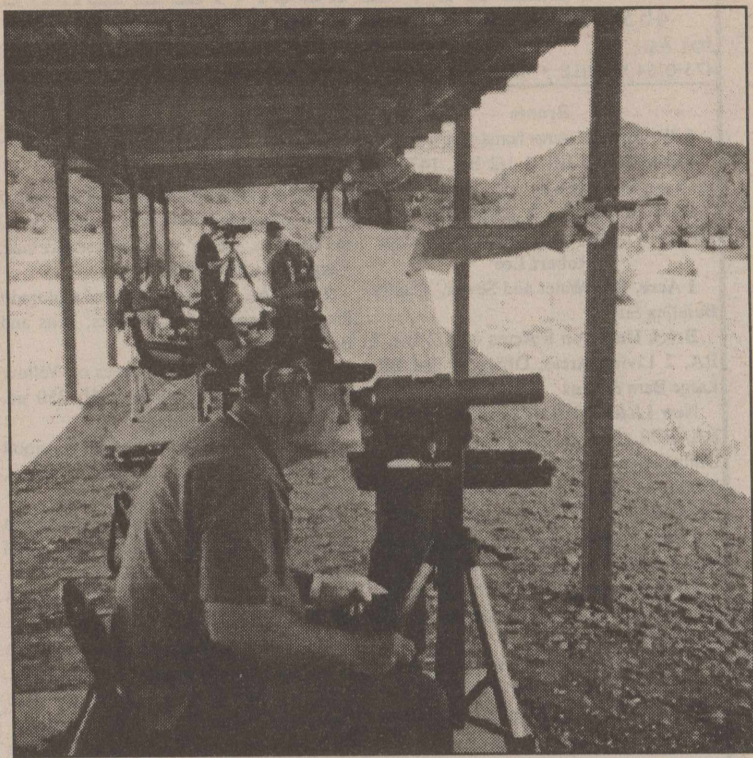
are invited to their

Christmas Open House

*Friday,
December 12
11 am to 3 pm*

453-4561





Richard Johnson of Robert Lee draws a bead on the Ram silhouettes at 100 meters during a match held August 4-8. This is an open sight event. Ken Green (forefront) is his spotter. Ken and Richard spot for each other in matches. A good shooter must have a good spotter and coach. The men have worked as a shooter and spotter team for approximately twelve years.

Red Canyon Gun Club news

By Richard Johnson
Red Canyon Gun Club of Robert Lee members have always held their own in State and National Rifle and Pistol Competition. In the 2001 National Hunter pistol silhouette championships at Raton, N.M., Doug Randal placed in the top 10 of his class in 3 events. In 2002, Ken Green brought home 3 trophies in the top 10 of different events in his class.

This year, Aug. 4-8, Richard Johnson placed in the top 10 in AAA class in 2 matches with a 4th and 6th place and just out of the top 10 with a 11th place in Big Bore hunter pistol. Red Canyon shooters shot a total of 6 to 8 matches in the 4 day event which is held at the N.R.A. Whittington Center at Raton, N.M., usually in the first week in August. Competitors from all over the United States compete for 4 days in all phases of hunter pistol silhouette matches. A total of 8, 60 shot matches are required for the National title.

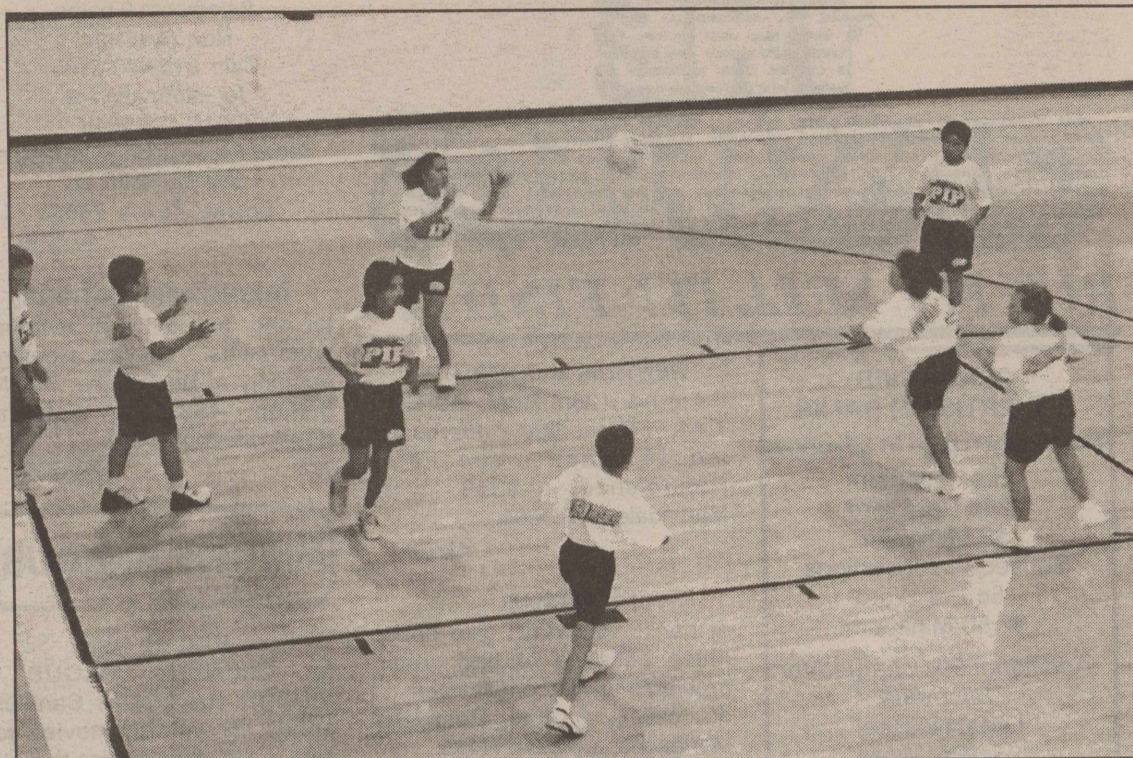
Shooters from Red Canyon in 2003 were Richard Johnson, Ken Green, Doug & Linda Randal, Jeremy Randal, Earl Williams, Cecil Hogg, Wanda Hogg, Larry Butler, Howard Droll and Les Turner.

On Saturday, Dec. 6th, Red Canyon Gun Club hosted its

last hunter pistol match of the 2003 season. In match #1, small bore hunter pistol, Doug Randal of Big Spring came within 1 point of the club record scoring a 37 out of 40 to take the High Overall Trophy. In a shoot off for second place, Richard Johnson beat out Tim Willingham of San Angelo with a 33 out of 40. Willingham took the 3rd place trophy with a 33-40, but lost to Richard in the sudden death shoot off. Kenneth Green finished in 4th place. Ken Green won a leg on his Grand Slam with a perfect 10 hits on chickens at 40 meters.

In match #2, Richard Johnson turned the tables on Doug Randal and blasted out a 37 out of 40 to take the trophy in the big bore hunter pistol match. Doug finished in 2nd place with a 34 out of 40. Third place went to Ken Green with a 28 out of 40. Larry Butler of Stanton took the 4th place trophy with a 21 out of 40. Larry also won a leg on his Grand Slam with a perfect 10 on the 50 meter pigs.

A "Grand Slam" is a N.R.A. Award that puts a shooter in the N.R.A. record books for shooting a perfect 10 hits on a bank of silhouettes in a sanctioned match. To earn a Grand Slam, a shooter must shoot a perfect 10 on a bank of chickens at 40 meters, pigs



Robert Lee PIPs performed the double ball star during halftime of the Robert Lee Varsity Girls basketball game vs. Christoval on Tuesday, December 2. Shown running the drill are Johna Saucedo, Rebecka Saucedo, Zachary Sanchez, Rachel Rojas, Justin Gartman, Ashlie Wheat, and Jordan Gartman. The children continue to practice weekly for their next performance in January.

at 50 meters, turkeys at 75 meters and rams at 100 meters. Three shooters have earned their coveted Grand Slam pin on the Red Canyon Range in N.R.A. sanctioned matches, Jim Brisbin of Sonora, Richard Johnson of Robert Lee, and Doug Randal of Big Spring. Ken Green of Robert Lee only lacks his perfect score on turkeys to have his "Grand Slam" completed.

Coke County Library news

The Coke County Library invites everyone to come by on Friday, December 12, for an Open House visit. There will be cookies and an opportunity to look around the library and to sign up for a library card. The Story Hour Christmas tree is in the process of being decorated and the children have made original bead decorations which have been personally added to the tree. Next week the garlands will be added so everyone will have to come back next week to see the whole effect.

The library has a large supply of Christmas cooking and Christmas decorating reference books. The books can provide the inspiration for last-minute decorating. A set of Southern Living books are available. Cooking Lite magazines are also available.

The History of the Old Coke

County Jail and Sheriffs by Bonita Copeland and Grandmother Stories from the Heart of Texas by Jane Austin Bruckner are available for purchase. Books are for Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries, and every occasion.

Library hours are Tuesdays, 8-12; Wednesdays, 8-4; Thursdays, 1-5; and Fridays, 8-12. Books may be returned to the Main Street Market in Bronte and to the 24/7 book drop on the porch of the library. Story Hour is Tuesday at 10:00 am. Head Start Story Time is Wednesday at 9:30.

Bronte OES meets December 8

On Monday, December 8, 2003, Bronte Chapter #1048 Order of the Eastern Star held its stated meeting in the Masonic Lodge Hall with 19 members attending. The Worthy Matron, Lanette Fletcher presided. Plans for the annual Christmas dinner at the Senior Citizens building were finalized. Bronte Chapter will serve a traditional Christmas dinner to the Senior Citizens on Thursday, December 11th. Christmas decorations and entertainment will add to the enjoyment of those who attend. The meal will be served at 11:30 am.

The Chapter members voted

to join with the Bronte Masons in purchasing a Christmas Banner to decorate the city. They will be used from year to year and will add to the beauty of Bronte at Christmas.

The date for the bake sale was changed to December 18th to coincide with the Christmas in Ole Bronte Celebration. Desserts will be sold in individual servings or whole. Members are to have their goodies at the City Hall by 4:00 pm and will be sold after the parade ends.

The Food Bank Committee has received cash and checks to purchase food for the Christmas Holidays for needy families. This is an ongoing project for the Bronte Chapter.

The Worthy Matron, Lanette Fletcher gave her report on Grand Chapter and informed everyone of the updates of the Constitution and Laws of Grand Chapter passed at the 121st Grand Chapter Session.

Plans to refinish the kitchen floor of the Masonic Hall were delayed until after the first of the year.

Invitations to visit other Chapters were read and the Worthy Matron reminded everyone of the real meaning of Christmas. A gift was presented to Lanette and Worthy Patron, Keith Fletcher from the members of the Chapter, and they gave a gift to each member present.

DARYL'S BODY SHOP

300 STATE HWY 229
ROBERT LEE, TEXAS 76945

DARYL COPELAND, OWNER 453-2980

KEARBY CO: ACCOUNTING, REAL ESTATE, HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE

SERVING INDIVIDUALS, SELF-EMPLOYED, FARMERS, RANCHERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

JIM KEARBY, CPA 1.866.543.3114

Happy Holidays

Massage by Darrell

Christmas Special

(4) 15 min. massages

Includes:

Therapeutic stretching
Yoga stretching
Palates therapy
Cranial sacral therapy
Cranial sacral therapy
Neuromuscular release
Full body & clothed

Stress
Migraine
Headaches
Sinuses
Chronic
Pain

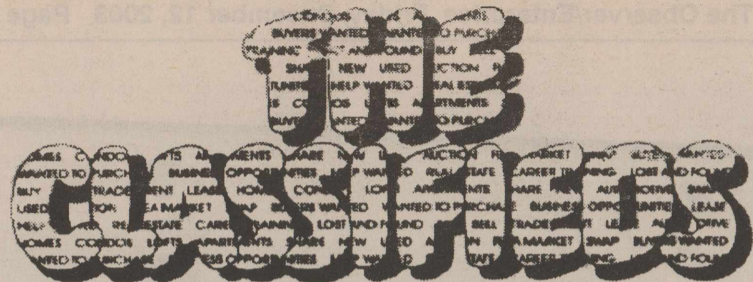
Digestive
Rotator cuff
Fibromyalgia
Injury
Rehabilitation
Sciatica
Carpal Tunnel
16 yrs. Exp.



150 gift Certificates

Auctioned at \$45.00

325-453-4377 call for appt.



BUY IT! SELL IT! FIND IT!

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES
Rates when paid in advance.

First Insertion
20¢ Per Word
\$3 Minimum
Subsequent Insertions
16¢ Per Word
\$2.50 Minimum
Additional 50¢ charged for
Blind Ads
Legal Notices:
25¢ Per Word
A service charge will be
added to all ads which
must be billed.
ADVERTISING DEADLINE
Tuesdays at 2 pm

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.
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.



FOR SALE

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.
11-tnc

FOR SALE
15-inch computer monitor, good working condition. 453-2497 after 5:00 pm.
18-4tc

PENTIUM III COMPUTER
6.4 g hd, 128m RAM, CD ROM 1.44, 17" monitor. Keyboard, mouse and speakers. Refurbished. \$349. Ed Martindale, 473-3004.
21-1tp

I'M MAD
at banks who don't give house loans because of bad credit, problems or new employment. I do, call L. D. Kirk, Homeland Mortgages, (254) 947-4475.
21-1tp

MESQUITE FIREWOOD
Seasoned or green- Also 2 cords of seasoned oak left. 453-4401.
21-3tp

FOR SALE
Weight machine. Like new. Cost over \$200, take \$50. 453-5503.
20-2tp

HOUSE FOR SALE
201 Jones, Bronte. 3 BR/2 BA, 2 living areas. CH/CA. Stucco with tile roof. Over 2,000 sq. ft. Priced to sell at \$59,900. New loan or owner carry with 20% down. Call 325-439-1051.
13-tnc

FOR RENT

FOR RENT
Bronte Mini Storage has storage buildings for rent. Call 473-2221.
19-tnc

RENT-TO-OWN
A 1 to 2 bedroom at Wildcat Marina, near Robert Lee on Lake Spence. Payments as low as \$75.00/month. Call Terry at (325) 453-2801.
20-2tp

FOR RENT
2 bedroom, 2 bath home, 214 W. 10th, Robert Lee. \$500/month, \$200 deposit. (972) 841-5352.
06-tnc

Bob Frazer's 944-0010
473-6603
Texas Best
Deflooding & Carpet Cleaning
24 hr. Emergency Water Damage Service

Concho Realty
Office 653-4535
Home 453-4748
Becky Clendennen
BRICK HOME WITH LARGE LIVING AREA!
Formal Dining with Hardwood floors! \$30s!!
BRICK HOME with Workshop on Acreage! \$60s!

HILLCREST ADDITION! 3 bedrooms, 2 living areas with fireplace!
BRICK HOME with Workshop on Acreage! \$60s!

NICE! NEW! BRICK!
3 bedroom 2 1/2 baths
2 bedroom 2 baths
Now Available!
Call: 915-473-3105
for information or
915-473-9548
Santa Fe Crossing Duplexes
320 SE Railroad
Bronte, Texas 76933
44-51tp

TAKING APPLICATIONS
for one, two & three bedroom apartments. Contact Housing Authority of Robert Lee, 710 N. Bishop, 453-2912. Equal Housing Opportunity.
29-EOW

MISCELLANEOUS

JUST IN TIME
for Christmas, CLOUD 9 VIDEOS has McCall Candles, previously viewed movies for sale, & the latest movies to rent!
21-1tc

LOST DOG
4 year old male, Jack Russell Terrier. White with brown head & brown at base of tail. Answers to the name of Reus. Please call Jay Henderson at 473-3861.
20-2tc

BUILD AND REPAIR FENCES
Reasonable prices. Call 473-8911.
19-4tp

HORSE SHOEING
17 yrs. experience
Have Tools will Travel
Kelly Watson-453-4388
18-4tp

FIESTA FUN JUMPS
Inflatable Castle & Sports Arena for your event! 473-9FUN.
12-tnc

GARY'S BACKHOE, INC.
For your backhoe, motorgrader, dozer and dump truck needs. Sand - Gravel. 450-2418 Gary Hubbard.
27-tnc

THE "BARBER" SHOP
Debora England, 223 N Lombard, Bronte. 473-4026. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. 9 am - 5 pm.
33-tnc

PARKER PLUMBING
Residential & Commercial. All types plumbing repair - new construction, remodeling, fixtures, and sewer service. Licensed Master Plumber. 473-2131, Bronte.
34-tnc

HELP WANTED

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED
call 453-0607. About 3 hours, one day a week. Prefer mid-week or Tuesday. \$20 flat rate for 3 hours.
21-2tp

POSITIONS AVAILABLE
Full time: LVN - 2-10 shift. CNA - 6-2 shift. Bronte Health & Rehab Center, 900 South State Street, Bronte, Tx. 325-473-3621. E.O.E.
20-2tc

SAN ANGELO STANDARD TIMES
is seeking a mature individual delivering newspapers in Bronte. Make approximately \$700 per month working early morning hours. 659-8292.
20-3tc

ASH-MILLICAN-CARSON REAL ESTATE
453-5144 OFFICE • 5 E 6TH STREET • ROBERT LEE, TX
JOE ASH www.amcwesttexasranches.com MARSHALL MILLICAN
473-0164 MOBILE • 453-2554 HOME 473-0437 MOBILE • 453-9002 HOME

Bronte
2BR, 1BA Nice starter home, close to school
Extra Nice 3 BR, 1 1/2 BA, 1470 +/- sq. ft. on four lots with water well
BLACKWELL - 2 BR, 2 BA, on 7 acres, city water, barns, highway frontage
Robert Lee
1 Acre, City Water and Sewer. Choice Building Site
Brick Home on 8 Acres with 2 BR, 2 BA, 2 Living Areas, Office or 3rd BR, Large Barn & Pens
New Listing Office Exclusive. 3 BR, 3 BA, 2570 +/- sq. ft., Spacious Kitchen and Dining Area, Hardwood Floors, Fireplace, Beautiful Yard with Large Trees, Detached 17' x 17' finished game room
Priced to Sell, 4 BR, 2 bth, large den with second living area. CA/CH over 2100 sq. ft.
Price reduced, 2 BR, 1 bth, CA/CH, sunroom or 3rd BR, large kitchen, single garage, over 1800 sf
3 BR, 2 BA home with screened-in porch, Possible Owner Finance \$20's
2 BR, 1 BA mobile home, furnished, carport and storage building
Other Listings Available

Lake Spence Area, 2 BR, 1 BA, Ceramic tile, sundeck, guest quarters.
Acreage
1022 +/- Acres, Excellent hunting, rolling terrain located in a mountainous area. Some live oak trees, 3 water wells, 1 dirt surface tank, 1 large barn with electricity
315+/- AC. with 1/2 Mile of Colorado River frontage, 4 Stock Tanks, Pens and Barn. Choice Hunting.
314+/- AC. Live Oak trees on Yellow Wolf Creek, good water well, 230 ac. cultivation, good hunting.
248+/- AC. Highway frontage, good water well, pens, 81 ac. CRP income, good dirt tank.
147+/- AC. All Pasture. Convenient to Robert Lee. Flat to rolling terrain. Good hunting.
130+/- AC. Convenient to Bronte. 3 BR, 2 BA home with 30x40 Shop.
93+/- AC. Highway frontage with mountainous views, water well and electricity.
80 +/- Acres, Very nice ranch style home with 3 BR, 2 BA 2 Living Areas. All Steel Horse and Cattle Pens. 3 Large Barns.

New & Antique Jewelry
This 'N That Shop
717 Austin • Robert Lee

ROBERT LEE ISD JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
Robert Lee ISD is seeking a driver for the Fairview bus route. Applications must be received by 12-17-03.
QUALIFICATIONS:
1. Must have a good driving record with the DPS.
2. Must have a CDL drivers license with Passenger endorsement.
3. Must have or be able to obtain ESC bus driver training.
4. Must be able to pass a bus physical.
5. Must be able to follow instructions.
DUTIES:
1. Drive a.m. and p.m. portion of daily route.
2. Keep bus clean and report all mechanical problems to maintenance dept.
3. Maintain a safe and functional level of fuel in the bus at all times.
4. Maintain order on the bus.
5. Report all discipline problems to the campus principal.
6. Other duties as assigned by Superintendent.
For more details call Lindsey Wallace at 453-4555.
21-1tc

BRONTE ISD
is accepting applications for two positions: a Special Ed Aide (Bilingual Preferred) and a Day Care Worker. For information contact Terry Marrs, Elementary Principal. 325-473-2521 or FAX resume to 325-473-2313. Positions are open until filled. Bronte ISD is an EOE.
20-2tc

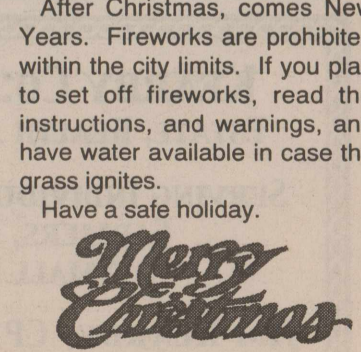
NEED: WEEKEND RN
Bronte Health & Rehab Center
900 South State Street, Bronte, Tx. 325-473-3621. E.O.E.
20-2tc

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE
Serving Coke County
P.O. Box 1329 Robert Lee, TX 76945
(915) 453-2433
drop box is located at
HOMETOWN HARDWARE
in Bronte.

NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
To the public and, See Listing Below, Pursuant to Section 59.044 of the Texas Property Code, notice is hereby given of the sale of the contents of Units, See Listing Below, of the storage facilities located at the southeast corner of Commerce Street (TX 158) and East 6th Street, the northwest corner of Bishop Street and West 10th Street (TX 208) and the southeast and northeast corners of Chadbourne Street and West 8th Street. The contents of the units will be sold to satisfy a contractual Landlord's Lien. The sale will be conducted no sooner than 26, Dec. 03.
Roy Dean or Diana Clark #7
James Torres 37-AB
Cheryl Millican 47-AB
Allen Clendennen
21-2tc

Fire safety tips
By Bud Thompson
City Fire Marshall
Bud Thompson would like to remind Coke County residents that Fire Safety is everyone's responsibility. The grass is dry out and it only takes a spark to start a fire, even in our own yard.
On Dec. 3rd, the fire department was called to a grass fire on Chadbourne Street. The extension cord that went to the Snow Man Christmas decoration shorted out, burning the Snow Man, and catching the lawn on fire. This could have been a house fire as well as a grass fire.
Be sure to check your extension cords when you put up your Christmas decorations. Do not use them if they are frayed or cracked.
When using space heaters or fireplaces, keep the area around it clear. Heat alone can ignite fabric.
Do not block exits and have a fire plan worked out with the children. Everyone should know where to meet and above all, DO NOT RE-ENTER THE HOUSE.
After Christmas, comes New Years. Fireworks are prohibited within the city limits. If you plan to set off fireworks, read the instructions, and warnings, and have water available in case the grass ignites.
Have a safe holiday.



IRS provides advice on charitable donations

As the end of the year approaches, the Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers that they may be able to use their gifts to tax-exempt charitable and religious groups to reduce their taxes.

Taxpayers also need to keep in mind some simple steps to make sure they get appropriate benefit for their generous donations. In particular, there are some important guidelines for donating used cars and other property such as stocks and bonds.

The tax benefit for charitable contributions is only available for taxpayers who itemize deductions - about one-third of all filers. Those who take a standard deduction receive no additional tax benefit for their contributions.

In 2000, the last year for which complete data is available, about 37.5 million taxpayers made deductible charitable contributions totaling nearly \$140.7 billion. Of these gifts, nearly \$98.2 billion were cash donations.

Only contributions actually made during the tax year are deductible. For example, if you pledged \$500 in September but paid the charity only \$200 by Dec. 31, your 2003 deduction would be \$200. You include credit card charges and payments by check in the year they are given to the charity, even though you may not pay the credit card bill or have your bank account debited until the next year.

Those itemizing deductions reduce their taxable income by the total contributed to qualified tax-exempt organizations, with some limits. The tax saving usually equals the deduction times the marginal tax rate - the rate for the person's income level.

For example, an individual with a taxable income of \$50,000 donates \$2,000 to his or her church. The tax savings from this generosity will be \$500 - \$2,000 times the taxpayer's marginal tax rate of 25 percent.

Donations of stock or other property are usually valued at the fair market value of the property. For stocks and bonds with an active market, the fair market value is the average price between highest and lowest selling price on the valuation date. Figuring the value of other personal property can be more complicated.

For example, determining the value of a donated used car requires weighing several factors. Some car donation program operators have mistakenly suggested that donors can take as a deduction the full value listed in an established used car pricing guide. For additional information, see IRS News release 2001-112, "IRS and State Charity Officials Urge Care When Making a Car Donation."

The tax law, however, allows a deduction for only the fair market value of the car. Fair market value takes into account not only the year, the model and the mileage of the car, but also the local market and the vehicle's condition. As a result, the fair market value of the taxpayer's car may be substantially different than the average price listed in an established used car guide.

The IRS also reminds taxpayers to keep appropriate records to substantiate the value of their gifts. For example, for any single gift of \$250 or more, a taxpayer must have a written acknowledgment from the charity by the earlier of the date the person files

the tax return or the filing deadline, including extensions. A person donating property valued at more than \$5,000 must obtain a qualified written appraisal.

Taxpayers can find help regarding the donations they make in IRS Publication 526, "Charitable Contributions." A second reference, IRS Publication 561, "Determining the Value of Donated Property," answers many of the questions that donors have when they make noncash contributions. Both publications are available at the IRS Web site www.irs.gov, or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

Holiday toy buying guide

*Make sure toys are safe. The toy shouldn't have any small parts the child can put in his or her mouth. Equally important, the toy should be durable. Pieces of broken toys pose just as great a choking hazard.

*Toys that can be used for a variety of things will be used more than a toy that has a single use. Open-ended toys let children be creative and use their imagination. For example, a toddler can use a large ball for playing catch, kicking in the back yard or as a stool for spinning in a circle.

*Toy packaging give recommended ages for the product, but sometimes the recommendations are off. Look carefully at the toy, examine it and determine if it might be too challenging or not challenging enough for your child - both of which will cause it to be discarded.

*Gift givers need to think about what they are going to buy before heading to the toy store, which can be an overwhelming shopping experience. Go toy shopping without any idea of what you're looking for and you're more likely to make a mistake.

*Purchasing a toy for a friend or relative's child? Call the parents and make sure the child doesn't already have the toy and that the parents are fine with the proposed gift.

Hunters and hikers should protect against diseases

Thousands of Texas hunters and hikers are taking to the woods and fields in pursuit of deer, doves and the great outdoors. Unfortunately, they're not alone. Billions of critters that can carry diseases will be out there, too.

Hunters, campers and hikers have an increased risk of exposure to diseases transmitted by ticks, fleas and mosquitoes and to diseases spread by wild animals, cautions the Texas Department of Health (TDH). "But encounters with insects and wildlife are less likely to cause problems if people know what they're dealing with, what the symptoms of infection are and some simple precautions they can take to protect themselves," said Eric Fonken, veterinarian with TDH's zoonosis control division.

West Nile virus can cause encephalitis and is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. Encephalitis is an inflammation of the brain and meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain or spinal cord that may be caused by one of several mosquito-borne viruses. Symptoms can include intense headache, high fever, nausea, muscle tenderness, partial unconsciousness and even coma. Although unlikely, death may occur.

As of Nov. 13, TDH had recorded 363 human cases of West Nile virus meningo-encephalitis in 75

Texas counties this year, including 27 deaths.

West Nile virus is only one illness with which people who enjoy the outdoors have to contend. With **Lyme disease**, which is the most frequently diagnosed tick-borne problem in the United States, there may be skin lesions or rashes. If left untreated, severe damage to the joints, heart and nervous system may result. In addition, **Rocky Mountain spotted fever**, another disease that is spread by ticks and that produces a rash, can cause serious illness and even death if not treated quickly. Exposure to the bacteria that causes **tularemia**, yet another tick-borne disease, also can occur from handling carcasses of wild rabbits and rodents.

Plague, common in wild rodent populations of West Texas, is transmitted to people by fleas or by direct contact with infected animals such as prairie dogs, squirrels, cats, rats and mice. This dreaded disease sometimes includes the presence of painful, swollen lymph nodes. Unless treatment is sought quickly, death may result.

"Many of these diseases begin with flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills, headache and body aches," Fonken said. "However, symptoms can worsen quickly and affect various systems of the body."

The best way to avoid getting these diseases is to protect yourself against insect bites:

*Use insect repellent containing DEET, following package directions carefully.

*Stay on trails and avoid areas of overgrown brush and tall grasses.

Wear protective clothing such as a hat, a long-sleeve shirt and long pants tucked into boots or socks. Wear light-colored clothes to easily spot ticks.

*Check your body carefully for ticks every few hours. Ticks are small, easy to miss and will attach to any part of the body from head to toe, so look carefully.

Some diseases are spread by contact with dust particles containing a virus; others by direct contact with infected animals or animal carcasses.

Infected rodents such as rats and mice spread **hantavirus infection** to people. A rodent may have the virus in its droppings, urine and saliva. From there, the virus can spread in the air on dust particles. "You can become infected by inhaling dust that contains the virus," said Fonken. "Cleaning cabins, sheds or barns without a mask can increase your chances of coming in contact with hantavirus."

Early symptoms of hantavirus infection are much like those of flu. The disease may lead to extreme difficulty with breathing, possibly followed by death. Patients may recover through supportive treatment, but antibiotics will not cure a hantavirus infection.

Deer hunters need to be aware that deer can share the bacterium that causes **anthrax** in people and that feral hogs can carry **brucellosis**. Care should be taken when handling all wild-animal carcasses, including wearing latex gloves when field dressing those animals.

Rabies is a viral infection of the nervous system that may affect almost any warm-blooded animal. "It is impossible to tell by looking at an animal whether it is infected with the rabies virus, so avoid contact with any wild animals. Especially do not try to assist

injured animals or touch dead ones," warned Fonken. "If you see an obviously sick animal or suffer an animal bite or scratch, contact a game warden, a park employee, or an animal control or law enforcement officer as soon as possible."

Rabies is present in many wild-animal populations in Texas, especially skunks, bats, raccoons, coyotes and foxes. Humans usually are infected through a bite by a rabid animal. Rabies is always fatal once symptoms begin, which is why you should immediately consult a doctor if any animal bites you.

More information is available online at www.tdh.state.tx.us/zoonosis.

Avoid the Holiday "Gimme's"

Before children turn five years old, they have been hit by at least 30,000 advertisements. These ads quickly turn vulnerable, impressionable curious children into insatiable consumers.

During the holiday season, pressure from advertisers is at its greatest as manufacturers and retailers target kids with the season's "newest, must-have" items.

This season, if your children fall into the "gimme" mentality, use it as an opportunity to teach them practical lessons about the value of a dollar.

"Money, spending and gift-giving mean different things at each of your children's development phases, but even a toddler can learn basic financial principles," says Dr. Sheelagh Manheim, co-author of the book, *Yes, You Can! Raise Financially Aware Kids*, published by Stowers Innovations. "The holidays are a perfect opportunity for parents to give their children some eye-opening lessons in money management."

Parents can turn the holiday "gimme's" into a lesson in becoming a wise consumer with a few suggestions:

***Holiday jobs** - To curb begging, pleading and tears in the check-out line, consider giving your children the opportunity to earn extra money this holiday season. Studies show impulse-buying drops significantly when children have to spend their own money.

***Budget together** - Involve your children in your family's holiday budget. By involving children, they begin to understand the difference between "wants" and "needs," and how to prioritize given the available resources.

***Make a list** - Children are often asked by grandparents for a list of things they want for the holidays. Have them create a wish list of five items. Have them look through various catalogs or visit local stores. Beside each item, have them write the price and where the item can be found. They will quickly learn a lesson in comparison-shopping.

***The joy of giving** - Explain to your kids that some children won't have toys to play with or nice clothes to wear this holiday. Ask if they would like to help them. If they do, when cleaning their rooms, have children set aside the toys they no longer play with. Let your children go with you to a charity drop-off point or gather and put donations on the porch for a pick-up. Be sure to tell your children how much the item's new owner will appreciate

getting it and how nice it is for them to think about others.

***Cash-only policy** - The temptation to pay with plastic is greatest during the holidays.

To avoid getting swept up in the shopping frenzy - and to set a good example for your children this season - don't use credit cards as a loan device to buy things you can't afford. Discuss with your children that credit cards borrow from you income next month and the consequence of late fees and finance charges.

Holiday excitement or anxiety

The holidays can be an exciting time for children as they anticipate gifts and visits to grandma's but young children may be overwhelmed by all the activity, turning excitement into anxiety.

Dr. Shelley Jackson, assistant professor of family sciences at Texas Woman's University, says children benefit when they can stick to a schedule. Even though a schedule is difficult to keep during the holidays, she said, consistency will give children some sense of security.

"Get information from their teacher or daycare provider about the activities of the day - what time they have their snack, nap time and play time - and stay as close to that schedule as possible," Dr. Jackson said.

Parents also should prepare for visits in advance. Dr. Jackson recommends talking with those whom they'll be visiting, discussing such issues as safety (Is the home childproof?) and concerns about valuable and breakable objects in the home. The hosts may have their own holiday traditions, so children should be told what to expect, she added.

As families gather for the holidays, young children may be overwhelmed by seeing so many relatives, some of whom they might meet for the first time. Dr. Jackson recommends taking the child into another room, giving him or her the opportunity to get away for a while. However, she added, "At the first sign a child is misbehaving, it's time to leave."

Traveling with children during the holidays can be stressful for parents, and children can pick up on that stress, Dr. Jackson said. When flying, she recommends booking direct flights, if possible, and bringing along toys that will hold the child's interest. While waiting for their flight, parents may take advantage of family rooms found in many airports. These rooms feature cribs and toys for children, she said.

Traveling by car can be made less stressful by playing games, whether electronic handheld games or guessing games played by the entire family. Stopping for breaks also may help.

Dr. Jackson said parents can avoid much of the stress the holiday season brings by doing only those activities that are meaningful to them.

"Before the holidays start, discuss what's important for you to do," she said. "Establish a tradition for your immediate family. Your extended family may have trouble accepting your decisions, but these are boundaries you need to set."

Annual Christmas Greeting issue is December 19.

Deadline is Tuesday, December 16, at 2 pm.



Main Street Market takes on new shine

Change is always good, or so says Kay Gothard of Main Street Market in Bronte. The diamonds and 14 karat gold jewelry have come to town! A wide selection of diamonds is offered. Special orders in any size, shape, or form are available.

Kay encourages everyone to drop by for a cup of coffee and look at all the things that have changed in the store.

Mrs. Gothard remembers, "Nine and a half years ago when Main Street Market opened, a man stopped and asked 'What kind of store ya puttin' in here?' I told him it would be a fine antique and gift shop - no junk!" "He responded after going to the curb to spit out tobacco juice, 'I sell junk, and I mean SELL!' He wished me luck and laughed when I told him to come back to see me. I am still here, but I have evolved; I now sell a little junk myself."

"I have survived a flood (by three year old, Autumn), and a robbery involving the stealing of my cash register (too fancy for this non-tech person to savvy). Then, a lady once almost had a heart attack when she leaned against the street lamp. It fell, breaking things as she and it hit the floor. We have endured a seven or eight year drought - and counting. Nine eleven did not brink our demise, and the excitement continues," states Mrs. Gothard.

Thru the best of times and the worst of times, Kay is thankful for her friends and neighbors who take care of her. The deer hunter who told his wife her store was a feed store, now has egg on his face because she knows differently. A diamond is a small price to pay to correct that impression!

Main Street Market is open Monday through Saturday, 9:30 am to 5:30 pm, during December. Merry Christmas and Happy 2004!

Signs placed at Red Canyon bird site

The Caliche Loop Bird and Wildlife Association has arranged for signs to be placed at the Red Canyon bird site. Members report seeing quail, red birds, the titmouse, nuthatches, and wrens at this site. All of the birds are small and like pecans and oranges. If anyone is shelling pecans and would like to donate the small pieces of shells left over, they

make good pickings for small birds. Shells and oranges can be left at the Coke County Library for pickup.

Paths for hiking and bird watching are being planned and paper work is being prepared which will enable the Association to apply for state and private funds to make the site accessible by car and handicapped accessible.

The Audubon Society Christmas Bird County will be held December 14. Members of the group will meet at Nana's at 8:00 am Sunday morning before heading out across the area to track the local and migrating species of birds. Last year some 71 different birds were counted. While this number is large, it is down from some 120 several years ago.

Anyone is invited to join in this venture. For a small fee for paperwork and a willingness to support this effort, volunteers are welcomed to join the group. Some of the folks doing this count have come to Coke County from Midland and Fort Worth for years to participate. Two of the members will spend Saturday night in Robert Lee so they can get up early to look for the more elusive of the species. There will be several groups around Robert Lee and the lake in groups of three or four, driving very slowly and stopping often.

The Caliche Loop Bird and Wildlife Association recently held a field trip for Robert Lee second graders at the Red Canyon site. The students scattered seed which will grow to provide food for the birds. The students and adults were enthusiastic about all that was learned in the field.

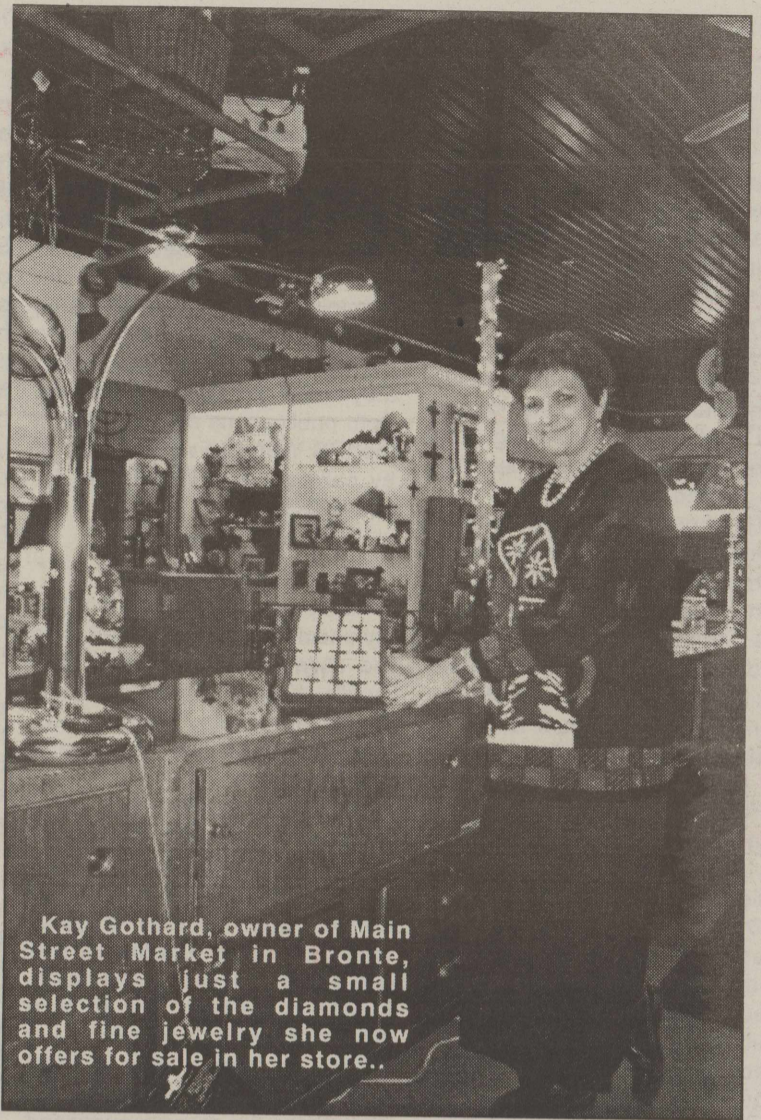
Roberts family enjoys holiday visitors

Thanksgiving holiday visitors in the home of Bobby and Jeffie Roberts were Jim and Sheila Farrar and Lauren Hammerton of Houston; Crystal Hammerton and Ryan Stanford of Stephenville; Rodney Creech and Joey Porter of Odessa; George (Buddy) Strickland of Glen Rose; and Calvin Bynum of Abilene.

Those present to enjoy the festive Thanksgiving Dinner were Floyd and Jessie Harmon, Douglas, Denise, Kacee and James Roberts, Marshall and Sheri Millican, and Bobby and Jeffie Roberts, all of Robert Lee; Howard and Lawana Perry of Carlsbad; Troy, Susan, and Cayla

Millican of Sterling City; Jim And Sheila Farrar, and Lauren Hammerton of Houston; Crystal Hammerton, Stewart Millican, and Ryan Stanford, all of Stephenville; Kannan Millican of Ft. Worth; and Aaron Moore of Aledo.

Happy Holiday



Kay Gothard, owner of Main Street Market in Bronte, displays just a small selection of the diamonds and fine jewelry she now offers for sale in her store.

Don't You Deserve Your First 2 Incoming Minutes Free?

Have you been good this year?

Well, even if you haven't, you can still get **First 2 Incoming Minutes Free**, only from Texas Cellular. Your first two incoming minutes are free, every time you get a call, throughout the Texas Cellular Home Area, and they don't count against your Texas Cellular monthly minutes! Yep, these minutes are really free... day or night, week days and week ends. No gimmicks...no fine print...no lump of coal in the old stocking. Just the cheery Texas Cellular service your neighbors have counted on for years. So you'd better let Santa know you want your First 2 Incoming Minutes Free, 'cause Christmas is almost here!

See your friendly Texas Cellular agent!
We Take Care Of Our Neighbors.

IN ROBERT LEE: Rock Solid Communications
 803 Austin • 325-453-2380
 Open M-F, 8 to 5

IN SNYDER: Permian Communications
 2403 West 25th Street • 325-573-2424
 Open M-F, 8 to 5 - Open Late on Tues. 8 to 7

IN SWEETWATER: 1113 Lamar 325-235-2853
 Sierra Communications • 1901 Bristol
 325-235-4377 • Open M-F, 9 to 5

TEXAS CELLULAR
A service of Taylor Telecommunications, Inc.
 9796 N. I-20 • Merkel, TX • 79536
 325-928-3300 • 800-424-7182

Safety - Your most important call

©MMIII TTI