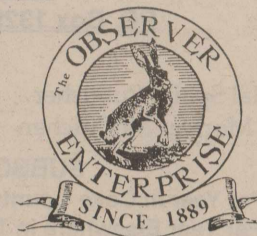


THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

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

Vol. 113, No. 18

Friday, November 24, 2000

Lady Horns fall short in their quest for volleyball state title

The Bronte Lady Horns traveled last Friday to the state volleyball tournament for the first time since 1991. And, when the dust settled from their semi-final matchup with Round Top-Carmine, it was that lack of playoff experience that ended their season. The Ladies were defeated 4-15, 0-15, in their semi-final contest in Strahan Coliseum at San Marcos.

According to Coach Amy Bohensky, "The Lady Longhorns prepared all season to reach this semi-final game at the state tournament. They set their goals from the beginning and were not going to accept anything less. But as the game began the Lady Longhorns knew something was different. Their game never came together like it had in so many games past,

and no matter how hard the girls tried, they couldn't overcome the excitement and emotions that are inevitable at this pressure packed event. The Lady Longhorns ended a fantastic season at 29-8, winning 22 out of the last 24 ball-games. These ladies have created many wonderful lasting memories for themselves, their coaches, their families, and their fans. Congratulations on a Spectacular Season!"

Individual stats at Friday's semi-final matchup went like this: Britni Adams, 1 assist; Kala Arrott, 4 kills, 1 block; Tessie McMullan, 1 assist; Jade Richards, 1 kill, 1 assist; Cara Sefcik, 1 dig; Lacy Schoenfield, 3 assists; Stormy White, 1 block; and Lauren Williams, 1 kill.

Coke County Christmas

Before the Jack-o-lanterns are put away, before the Thanksgiving turkey is cooked, the Christmas season is upon us. This year is no exception. The Coke County retailers are staying ahead of the rush, and their stores reflect the pre-planning and ordering that they must do way before the season begins.

The Robert Lee Christmas parade, sponsored by the Methodist Church, has been set for Friday, December 1, starting right after school. The parade will begin in the school parking lot and make its way downtown. Floats are welcomed.

Santa will be in Robert Lee. Children are encouraged to make a list and parents are encouraged to bring their cameras to the Courthouse. West Coke County Community Development will provide candy canes for all and 911 will have Frisbees.

The pride of West Coke County, Bryan's Barn is scheduled to open Friday night. Open House in Robert Lee will be on Friday, December 1 as well. Shoppers in Robert Lee know what treats are in store for them at local businesses.

The Bronte retailers are featuring a Country Christmas in Bronte on Friday, December 1. See ad for exciting details.

Country Christmas in Bronte

The Grinch may have stolen Christmas in other towns, but not in Bronte...The Chamber of Commerce and the merchants of Bronte, Texas are planning a memory making event for Christmas. Do you ever catch yourself saying "In the ole days we waited for Santa Claus to come by on the firetruck" "They just don't do that anymore". Well...this is the year, Bronte will be having a Christmas lighting on Friday evening December 1, 2000 at the Mini Park, beginning at 5:30 pm. The event will begin with a group of children singing Christmas carols and then the lights will come on in the downtown area and the old fashioned tree in the Mini Park. The memory making event will then take the children up to age 12 to the Community Room to engage in all kinds of Christmas activities including making Christmas ornaments, Christmas cards, listening to a Christmas story, enjoying Christmas treats and **a very welcome visit from Santa Claus!!!** who will also stay around for pictures with the kids. On Saturday, December 2, 2000 the various businesses will have open house for you to come and enjoy and **shop, shop, shop, in Bronte, Bronte, Bronte!!!** If your organization would like to participate with a booth on Satur-

day, all you have to do is contact the business that you will set up in front of. Dress warm and take time to stop and enjoy the season by sharing this time with your families and friends in downtown Bronte. If you have any questions you can always phone Julie at 473-7018, Sharon at 473-5101 or any other chamber member.

2nd annual Christmas Parade

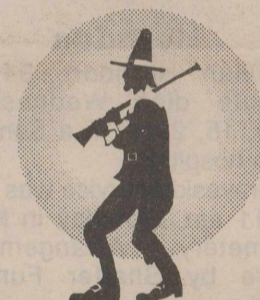
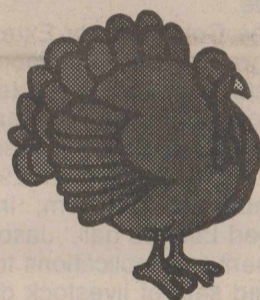
The second annual Christmas parade, sponsored by First United Methodist Church of Robert Lee, will be held Friday afternoon, Dec. 1st. The parade will begin at 3:45 pm in the parking lot of the elementary school and end at the courthouse, where Santa Claus will greet the kids after the parade.

According to Rev. Jim Reeves, entries are needed for the parade. Entries can include horses, wagon, floats, bicycles, antique cars, tractors, etc. Participants in the parade are urged to be at the school parking lot by 3:30 pm on Friday, Dec. 1st.

Benefit dance

A benefit dance will be held for Sam Ybarra Friday, Nov. 24 at 7:00 pm at the Robert Lee new rec hall. For more information contact Sally at 486-1690.

Happy Thanksgiving



West Coke County EMS to offer ECA/EMT class

West Coke County EMS will be offering an ECA/EMT class. Registration and orientation will be held December 4th, 6:00 pm at the Robert Lee EMS facility. In order to enroll in the class it is important to be present December 4th. Regular classes will begin January 4th. The class is open to anyone 18 years or older who has a High School diploma or equivalency. The class will meet on Monday and Thursday nights from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The cost of the class is \$80.00. Both Robert Lee and Bronte are desperately in need of volunteers to serve on the EMS. Will you help? For more information call Mary Bessent 453-2492 or Shell Williams, 453-2088.

Fish stocking program

Early planning for a spring fish stocking program is underway! Your local Soil and Water Conservation District is offering channel cat, bass, bluegill, bluecat and minnows for your private ponds. Place your orders NOW for delivery in early May, 2001. Contact the Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District at 915-453-2623, ext. 3 or go by 214 East 7th Street in Robert Lee for more information.

Bronte trash collection to change

The City of Bronte is having a trash collection schedule change. Beginning December 4th, customers North of West Main and East Main will be picked up on Mondays. Beginning December 7th, customers South of West Main and East Main will be picked up on Thursdays.

Robert Lee City Hall

The Robert Lee City Hall will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday on November 23-24. Trash service will run as scheduled. The Robert Lee landfill will be closed on Saturday, November 25. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Kickapoo water board sets election

Coke County Kickapoo Water Control & Improvement District #1 will hold an election on January 9, 2001 for the purpose of electing three directors. Directors filing for re-election to the board are Gerald Sandusky, Elton Moore and Noah Pruitt, Jr. The election will be held in Bronte City Hall.

For further information concerning the election, contact President Gerald Sandusky by 5 pm on Thursday, November 30, 2000.

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A Veterans Day ceremony was held at Robert Lee School Friday, November 10, 2000.

Sterling County added to quarantine

Sterling County was added recently to the state quarantine, restricting the movement of commercial bee operations following the detection of Africanized honey bees there. The addition makes 128 counties in Texas now quarantined for Africanized honey bees, according to Paul Jackson, chief inspector for the Texas Apiary Inspection Service, a unit of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. A colony of wild bees was found in a water meter at 211 3rd St. in Sterling City. A water meter reader received a few stings in the incident but

was not seriously injured and has recovered, Jackson said. "A sample was collected and taken to Texas A&M's Honey Bee Identification Lab where it was confirmed as Africanized," Jackson said. The quarantine allows beekeepers to move bee hives within but not out of the zone in an effort to prevent assisting the spread. Africanized honey bees look just like regular domestic honey bees but are more defensive in protecting their hives. State bee inspectors continue to monitor a series of bee traplines that extend across the state from Louisiana to New Mexico, Jackson noted. The Africanized bee was first detected entering the United States near Brownsville in October 1990. Since then, the bee has spread through much of the state, along a line roughly from south of Houston to south of Lubbock to El Paso. Africanized honey bees also have been found in Arizona, California and New Mexico. For information about Africanized honey bees on the Web, try <http://agnews.tamu.edu/bees>

Death Notices

Herndon
 Julian Herndon, 94, of Bronte died Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2000, in a San Angelo hospital. Graveside service was held at 11 am Thursday in Miles Cemetery. Arrangements were by Shaffer Funeral Home. Survivors include a sister, Gertrude Herndon of Austin, two nephews, and three nieces, including Mrs. Jane Webb and Mrs. Kay Daulong, both of Bronte.

Lee
 Mildred Louise Lee, 79, died Friday, Nov. 17, 2000, in Miles. Service was held at 2 pm Monday at Seventh Street Baptist Church with burial in Evergreen Cemetery. Survivors include two daughters, Claudia Garges of Austin and Sue Morris of Elfrida, Ariz.; two brothers, Jerry Landers of Ballinger and Marvin Landers of Bronte; and two sisters, Edna Florence of Ballinger and Mattie McKoy of Clyde.

Veterans Honored
 by Jessica Long
 Sixth Grade Reporter
 The Robert Lee Schools honored the veterans of all wars on Friday, November 10th with a ceremony at the flagpole in front of the school. Tiffany Copeland, student body president, led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Steer Band played The Star Spangled Banner movingly as they were directed by Drum Major, Bobbie Sparks. Erin Millican read a brief history of Veterans Day. The assembly had a moment of silence in memory of all veterans.

UPCOMING

Drought conditions prompt meeting

With the sale of livestock due to drought conditions the past several months, there are some important tax implications that need to be addressed by producers. There are several ways that these incomes can be offset or carried over in order that a substantial tax savings could be realized. We have been hit hard enough with the drought, causing the sell off of livestock throughout the area, without the tax man taking a big bite out of your income. The Coke County Extension Program Council will sponsor a meeting to be conducted by Jason Johnson, Extension from San Angelo, on Wednesday night, November 29, beginning at 7:00 pm, in the Robert Lee rec hall. Jason will present tax implications for the forced sale of livestock due to drought conditions. He will cover several methods of offsetting these sales or carrying them over to lessen or even eliminate income taxes from these sales. We will also be covering some basic economic practices for livestock producers to assist you in making sound economic decisions. This should be a very beneficial meeting for all producers, and we welcome you to attend. For additional information, contact the extension office at 453-2461. We will seek to

provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for this meeting. If you require any special assistance for this meeting, contact our office.

CC food closet news

The Coke County food closet, sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance of Coke County, will alter its hours of operations next week (the week of Thanksgiving). The closet will not open on Thursday, Nov. 23, which is Thanksgiving Day. The food closet will resume operations on Nov. 30th.

The food closet continues to be in need of all kinds of non-perishable food items, especially as we enter into the holiday season. The closet is being utilized heavily during this period.

The food closet wishes to remind folks that food donations can be brought by the First United Methodist Church of Robert Lee or cash donations can be made to the Coke County Food Closet account at the Robert Lee State Bank.

Grass seed offered

Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District continues to assist landowners with grass seed mixes and purchases for range and CRP plantings. Visit our office at 214 East 7th Street or call 915-453-2623, ext. 3 for

seed availability and current prices.

Courthouse to close for holiday

The Coke County courthouse in Robert Lee will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Business will resume at 8:00 am on Monday, Nov. 27.

Churches of Robert Lee

- Invite You to Worship*
- Emmanuel Pentecostal**
 PO Box 609 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy
 (915) 453-2360
 Rev. Ray Aldridge, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm
 - First United Methodist Church**
 PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne
 (915) 453-2417
 Rev. Jim Reeves, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am Sunday School
 11 am Worship
 Wed. 7 pm Choir
 - Northside Church of Christ**
 PO Box 388 • 9th & Chadbourne
 (915) 453-2619 or 453-2270
 Tommy Williams, Minister
 Services: Sun. 10 am & 6 pm;
 Wed. 7 pm
 - Pecan Baptist**
 PO Box 542 • 12 W. Sterling City Hwy
 (915) 453-4645
 Rev. Dale Patterson, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship
 - Southside Church of Christ**
 PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston
 (915) 453-2176
 Frank J. Daniels, Preacher
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 6 pm, Worship
 Wed. 7 pm, Worship
 - Robert Lee Baptist Church**
 PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th
 (915) 453-2724
 Bro. Waide Messer, Pastor
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship
 Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting
 - Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church**
 601 W. 10th
 (915) 365-2687
 Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor
 Sat. 6 pm
 - Victory Assembly of God**
 6th & Houston
 (915) 453-2208
 Rev. Erma Johnson, Pastor
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
 10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship
 Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting

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Thoughts on the Scripture
 By Rev. Jim Reeves

John 1:38 "Jesus turned, saw them following him, and asked, 'What are you looking for?'"

We are all seeking something in life. The challenge is to know what it is and to recognize the One who can provide us with all our needs.
 May God bless each one of you.
 Brother Jim

Bronte Pharmacy
 will be closed
 Thursday &
 Friday for
 Thanksgiving.

RLVFD news

Last Tuesday Cub Scout Troop 461 visited the fire station. Chief Rick Drennan, firemen Matthew Tinkler, and Billy Torres showed them around the station. Chief Drennan explained how the fire call goes to 911 and the 911 operator calls dispatch, by phone, and sounds the siren. The dispatch then calls the firemen by radio. Chief Drennan gave a talk on fire safety and the reasons for having a meeting place should a fire occur. There were 10 Cub Scouts, leaders Lorrie Martin and Danny Cotter present, as well as several parents.

The department had regular training classes on the 13th and 8 members were present.

The second meeting of November was held on November 20th at the fire station and 10 members were present. President Larry Martin presided. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Chief Rick Drennan told the assembly about the Cub Scouts visit to the station.

Robert Lee will get the new pumper truck either the 7th or 11th of December. The new pumper truck will get here too late for the Christmas Parade as that is on the 1st, so the 1963 pumper will make its last parade in Robert Lee at that time.

Dispatcher Bud Thompson told about the grass fire, last Monday, and the malfunction of the siren, last week. The siren also malfunctioned at 1:30 am on the 21st.

They discussed the deer hunters BBQ. Some of the firemen helped with the preparations. They also discussed what work needs to be done on the equipment. The cold weather has brought new problems to the surface.

It is impossible for most of the men to get to 6 pm meetings so it was voted to delay all meetings and training until 7 pm. The next meeting will be December 4th at 7 pm. The training class will be on the 11th and the second meeting will be on the 18th.

The group adjourned and spent the next hour working on the trucks.

Coke County in need of volunteers for EMS

Have you ever stopped to consider what it would be like if Robert Lee and Bronte were without any ambulance service? Robert Lee and Bronte are both in need of certified volunteers to serve in the EMS. If you are 18 years of age or older and have a High School diploma or equivalency, please consider taking the ECA/EMT class being offered by the West Coke County EMS. An orientation and registration class will be held December

SA Genealogy and Historical Society

The San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society will meet at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2000 in the Fellowship Hall of the Church of Christ at 901 Main Street, San Angelo, Texas.

For more information call 655-6494.



Taylor Perifull participated in the 5th & 6th Grade Division of Flag Football for the City League in San Angelo. Taylor's team won the Superbowl Tournament, held November 11 and 12, and the City League, going undefeated. Taylor was also the recipient of the Most Valuable Player award for the City League. His parents are Joel and Patty Percifull of Robert Lee.

4th, 6:00 pm at the Robert Lee EMS facility. It is important that you attend this meeting if you are interested in attending the class. Regular classes will begin Thursday, January 4th and go through May 3rd. Classes will be held on Monday and Thursday nights from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The cost of the class is \$80.00. Scholarships are available for those interested in taking the class and serving on the ambulance. These scholarships are being given by people who cannot take the class but want to help. If you would like to sponsor a student or con-

tribute to a scholarship please call Mary Bessent. For more information on the class, call Mary Bessent 453-2492 or Shell Williams 453-2088.

Poinsettia sale

The Coke County 4-H members will be selling Poinsettia plants for their annual fund raiser. These plants are from Magic Farms nursery and will have 5-6 blooms. Orders will be taken until November 20 and delivery will be during the first week of December. Contact any 4-H member in Bronte or Robert Lee to place an order or you may call the Extension office at 453-2461.

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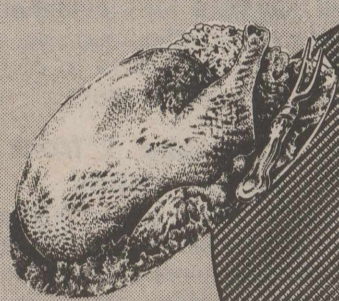
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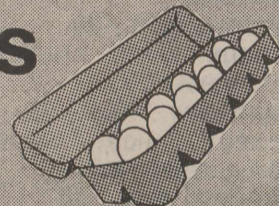
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Robert Lee School News

RLISD board meeting

The Robert Lee ISD Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 14, at 6:30 pm. Debbie Piper, of the accounting firm of Stovall, Grandey, and Whatley, presented the district's financial audit for the 1999-2000 school year. Mrs. Piper stated that it was a good report. The only finding was an ending deficit fund balance in the food service fund. She stated that a deficit in this fund is not uncommon among school districts. The district will correct the deficit by transferring the deficit amount from the general fund.

Trustees also approved revisions to local board policies on student absences and class rankings. New Texas Education Agency rules going into effect on January 1, 2001 require the change in the student absence policy. The policy change on class rankings clarifies which course will count toward honors rankings and how much they will be weighted.

Board members adopted a Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan, a new requirement under the Texas Department of Health. They also adopted a resolution asking the legislature to enact a statewide group health insurance plan for school employees. Health insurance has become a major expense for the school districts throughout the state. A state-financed health plan would provide some relief to the local tax burden.

The board also adopted campus improvement plans

SCHOOL MENU



Breakfast

- Monday, Nov. 27**
Orange juice, cinnamon roll, cereal, milk
- Tuesday, Nov. 28**
Orange juice, breakfast pizza, cereal, milk
- Wednesday, Nov. 29**
Orange juice, biscuit, sausage, cereal, milk
- Thursday, Nov. 30**
Orange juice, donut, cereal, milk
- Friday, Dec. 1**
Orange juice, muffin, cereal, milk

Lunch

- Monday, Nov. 27**
Chili con carne, rice, pears, potato patty, milk
- Tuesday, Nov. 28**
Steakfingers w/gravy, creamed potatoes, English peas, rolls, fruit cocktail, milk
- Wednesday, Nov. 29**
Chicken O's, macaroni & cheese, rolls, green beans, pineapple, milk
- Thursday, Nov. 30**
Spaghetti, carrots, tossed salad, bread, fresh fruit, milk
- Friday, Dec. 1**
Hamburger, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, potatoes, peaches, milk

presented by elementary principal Janet Wallace and high school principal Lindsey Wallace. Both stated that the plans would be updated throughout the year.

Trustees approved routine bill payment for November. The meeting adjourned after a brief closed session to consider personnel matters.

RL boys take 2 from Water Valley

The Robert Lee JV Steers won a close one over Water Valley by a score of 25-21, on Thursday, Nov. 16. The scoring is as follows: JJ Reyes took high point with a total of 11; followed by Travis Taylor 4; Brian Abalos and Evan Braswell with 3 each; Taylor Clendennen and Cole Flanagan with 2 each.

The Steers took their win by a score of 36-29. Scoring is as follows: James Gallegos was high with 9; Travis Pitcock and Colby Eubanks with 8 each; Lewis Samaniego and Jaziel Gallegos with 4 each; Cooper Riley 3; and Beau Boxell with 2.

"A Teachable Moment"

by Molly Burns, Cody Denton, Ashley Hopson, Briana Longoria, Allison Millican, Chase Roe, and Anna Rojas

On November 8, Robert Lee fourth and fifth grade classes used the snow as an excellent opportunity to practice their writing skills. Classes were mixed and put into groups of three or four. Each

group had one hour to write their version of "How to Build A Snowman." The students had to include all of their supplies needed to make the snowman, using only things available in their classrooms. They also had to explain in detail how to put their creation together.

After lunch, the excited groups proceeded outside to see if the snowman they had written about could actually be constructed. The kids did fantastic jobs writing and were able to build fine looking snowmen from their directions. One group forgot to mention the part about stacking the balls of snow. They improvised by having him lay on the ground explaining that he had been run over by Santa's reindeer. They even included footprints!

All groups were given awards based on writing, creativity, and teamwork. Awards ranged from the "Frosty Award" to the "Tu Tu Much Award." They are definitely looking forward to the next "Snow Day."

The Snowman

(Most Life-like award)

by Briana, Joshua & Garrett
Do you know how to make a snowman? Well, if you don't my friends and I are going to tell you step by step how to make a snowman.

The first thing we do is get out our materials. Our materials are three snowballs. The first one has to be as round as a huge elephant, our second ball has to be as big as a



Robert Lee Elementary students enjoyed the recent snowfall by building snowmen. Pictured with their snowman is Mason Ross, Chase Roe and Olga Perez.

pumpkin and the third ball has to be about the size of a human's head. The second material that we are using is two red small gum balls, then we are going to use four golden wrapped hershey kisses for the buttons, now we are using a pair of plastic glasses, we are going to use a tiny orange carrot for the nose, now we are going to use two small black pipe cleaners for his eyebrows, and our last material is two brown medium sized sticks for his arms.

The second thing that we are doing is building our snowman. Oh, we forgot two important things and they are

an umbrella and a jacket, so he won't freeze to death out in the snow. Then we will need our three snowballs. We will put the large one at
(cont'd. on page 6)

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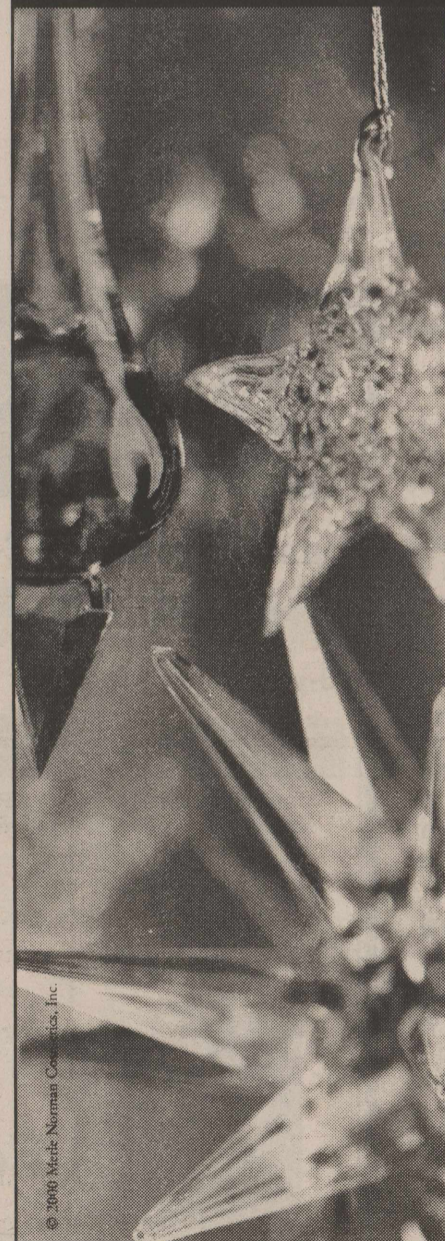


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Lady Horns named to district, regional teams

All district selections have been released for District 4-1A volleyball, and they include:

Co-MVP

Kala Arrott, Bronte and Stefany Hoelscher, Miles

First Team

Erin Bell, Water Valley; Emily Bell, Water Valley; Elizabeth Holik, Veribest; Tasha Reed, Bronte; Lacy Schoenfield, Bronte; and Brandi Tistle, Water Valley.

Second Team

Lacy Gibson, Miles; Tiffany Glass, Miles; Rachel Hoelscher, Miles; Brooke McCutchen, Bronte; Cara Sefcik, Bronte; and Melissa Waren, Water Valley.

Bronte's Honorable Mention

Jade Richards, Tessie McMullan, and Lauren Williams.

All Region Tournament Team

The Lady Horns placed three team members on the All Region Tournament Team at Lubbock. They include Kala Arrott, Lauren Williams, and Stormy White.

District 4-1A 2000 Academic All-District Bronte

Britni Adams, Natasha Reed, Lacy Schoenfield, Stormy White, Britney McCutchen, Brooke McCutchen, Tessie McMullan, Jade Richards and Cara Sefcik

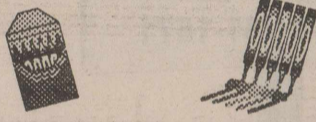
Miles

Mandy Gesch, Lacy Gibson, Evan Heinze, Keri Hoelscher, Rachel Hoelscher and Stefany Hoelscher

Water Valley

Emily Bell, Erin Bell, Culley Dawson, Brandi Tistle, Ami Thompson and Stacey Wright

SCHOOL MENU



Breakfast

Monday, Nov. 27

French toast sticks, apricots, teddy grams, milk

Tuesday, Nov. 28

Sausage, grape juice, pancake, milk

Wednesday, Nov. 29

Scrambled eggs, hash browns, biscuit, milk

Thursday, Nov. 30

Breakfast burrito, apple juice, cinnamon toast, milk

Friday, Dec. 1

Cereal or oatmeal, peaches, blueberry muffins, milk

Lunch

Monday, Nov. 27

Fish sticks, blackeyed peas, stir fried rice, mixed fruit, rolls, milk, chocolate pudding

Tuesday, Nov. 28

Lasagna, corn, tossed salad, bread sticks, milk, sugar cookies

Wednesday, Nov. 29

Hot dogs, chili & cheese, tator tots, baked beans, buns, milk, apple sauce cake

Thursday, Nov. 30

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

Friday, Dec. 1

Cheese burgers, French fries, lettuce, tomatoes & pickles, bun, milk, cinnamon rolls

Veribest

Cheyenne Friend, Emily Heathcott, Mallory Hill, Elizabeth Holik, Stefanie Killam, Beth Moeller, Nicole Reed and Lacy Westbrook

TDH sweeping retail stores

The time from peeking at a carefully drawn up wish list to filling out a shopping bag is a short one, often crammed into hectic hours of scanning store shelves to find just the right item to make a child happy.

Product Safety Division inspectors at the Texas Department of Health (TDH) want those selections to be not only good matches to fulfill desires but safe ones as well. Awareness is the key.

To emphasize that awareness, TDH inspectors make the rounds of retail stores several days each fall, looking for children's items that have been recalled. The 2000 Toy Sweep was set for Nov. 16, 17, 20, and 21. Each inspector had a list of 10 items geared toward children that have been listed as recalled items since the first of the year by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

"The toy sweep is a reminder to both consumers and retailers that some items are not safe for children and have been recalled," said Charles Branton, director of the TDH Product Safety Division. "These recalled items should not be out on shelves for sale."

This year the list includes two items that are meant to ensure safety - bicycle helmets from Rand International and Cycle Express, Inc. Other items include Fisher-Price's Lift & Lock Swing and Get Up & Go Walkers; Kmart children's decorative lamps; Playskool Klackeroo toys; Galoob Toys, Inc., Sky Dancers flying dolls; Today's Kids Music & Lights Kidaround Spinner; Playtex Classic Patterns Cherubs and Soft Comfort latex pacifiers; Shelcore, Inc., Stand-Up 'N Play Tables; and Playskool Poppin' Pals toys.

These items are 10 out of hundreds recalled annually, and TDH's product safety inspectors investigate problems and head off potential dangers year round. Reasons for recalls include head injuries, falls, bruises and cuts, choking, eye injuries, broken teeth, broken bones, mild concussions, lacerations and fire hazards.

"We check for dangerous

children's products all the time," Branton said.

CPSC sends its recall notices to major retail stores across the country. Store managers then are to remove these recalled items and return them to the manufacturer. Some stores also post notices to inform consumers who may have bought the item before the recall.

"We do find items still for sale from time to time," Branton said. "The retailer may not have received the recall or the items may have been overlooked. Most retailers are happy to have our help getting unsafe items off the shelves." Inspectors who find a recalled item still for sale will ask the store manager to remove the item and return it to the manufacturer.

Even with toys manufactured correctly, problems may arise when a child is not the right age for the item. What may be safe and appropriate for children of one age group may be uninteresting or dangerous for youngsters of different ages or skill levels.

Labels help answer many questions about a toy's safety and suitability. "Consumers should take manufacturer recommendations seriously," Branton said. "If the label says the item is not recommended for a child under 3 years of age, then it isn't. It may have parts or strings that can choke or strangle a young child."

A good toy should be:

*Safe for that child's age, well constructed and durable.

*Appealing and interesting to the child.

*Suited to the child's physical capabilities.

*Suited to the child's mental and social development.

Branton said to look for sturdy construction such as tightly secured eyes, noses, buttons and other small parts. Also, discard plastic wrappings on toys immediately before they become deadly playthings. And always be sure a helmet and other protective gear is available along with a bicycle, tricycle, skates, skateboard or sporting equipment. Be sure a helmet fits the child's head and that the child likes the design and will wear it.

People who find what they

believe are dangerous, defective or mislabeled toys may call TDH Product Safety Division at 512-834-6773. Information is available on the TDH Product Safety Web site at www.tdh.state.tx.us/beh/ps/about/toyandproducthazards. TDH together with CPSC also offers an extensive checklist on Safety Suggestions for Gift Giving at the same Web site.

Pets trade bark for byte

Texas has achieved a milestone at Petfinder.com, the worldwide web's largest and oldest virtual animal shelter. "We recently signed up our one hundredth shelter in Texas making it one of our best represented states," says Betsy Saul, the Web site's founder.

"The more homeless pets listed in a given geographical area," she adds, "the better chance adopters will find just the pet they want nearby."

Petfinder.com represents over 1,600 shelters nationwide and lists about 23,000 homeless animals, as of October 2000. Users log-on to an eye-pleasing Web site that lets them search by kind of animal, breed, gender, size and/or age. The results of the search are ranked in proximity to the user's Zip Code. Shelter personnel and volunteers across the nation and in Canada and Puerto Rico keep the list of pets continuously updated. Most descriptions include a picture.

Tammy and Chris Stout, Dallas, were looking for a playmate for their shih-tzu at the Humane Society of Vernon. They think her former owners abused her because of the way she cowered when they came toward her. "She has just started coming out of her shell," reports Tammy, "and doesn't seem so scared anymore. Maggie and Molly


play nonstop and keep each other company."

Jody Bickel, Round Rock, also found a dog through Petfinder.com. She liked being able to search the Web site for the breed, size, gender and age dog she wanted, then to see pictures and get a little information on each one. "I found Sadie, a Corgi mix, at the Christ-Yoder Animal Adoption Shelter in Buchanan Dam. She was exactly what I was looking for," Jody says. "She needed a home in the worst way. So I took her home to surprise my boys. Needless to say, they were thrilled."

Mary Holland's adopted dog, Libby, was rescued from the side of the road in Victoria and put on Petfinder.com by Kitten Caboodle, a foster organization and adoption service. Mary, who lives 180 miles from Victoria, saw the dog's picture and description on the Web site and got in touch with the rescue organization. "Libby is an absolute joy and shows how much she loves us every day," says Mary. "I wouldn't have found her without Petfinder."

Some shelters and rescue groups report that up to half of their adoptions are a result of Petfinder.com listings. The service is free, which is a bonus to shelters and rescue groups, which often operate on shoestring budgets.

The growth of Petfinder.com drew the interest of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which has partnered with it. Now four years old, the Web site has drawn interest from outside animal welfare as well. AmericaOnline also features Petfinder as its pet adoption link and Yahoo! automatically includes Petfinder pets on its classified pages. Forbes Magazine named the site one of this year's 300 best on the Web.

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...Snowmen

the bottom, the pumpkin size one in the middle and the last ball at the top. Now we will put the two medium sized branches on each side of the middle ball. Oh, another thing we need is a snowman would not be a snowman without a mouth so we are using some Halloween plastic lips for a mouth. For a nose we will put the orange carrot. We are putting the orange cone on the top of the small snowball for the hat, and we also are going to put the hershey golden wrapped kisses for buttons on the middle snowball right in the center straight up and down.

The third thing we are going to do is clean up our mess. We will start out by cleaning ourselves up. First we will go into the school and take off our shoes because they are all wet and muddy. Now we will go in Mrs. Bessent's room and turn the water on and run our hands through the water, then we will put soap on our hands and rub them together and finally rinse them and dry them with a paper towel. Now that we have washed our hands all the germs are off. We also forgot a very important part, and that part is to put the gloves on the branches so the snowman's hands will not freeze up and fall off. Now that my friends and I are all finished building our snowman we can sit down and admire it.

These are all our materials and steps to build this snowman. Well, now you know how to make a snowman and now you can tell your friends how to build a snowman.

How to make a snowman (The Frosty Award)

by Arrin, Allison, & Cori

Have you ever made a snowman? Well we have and we're going to show you how the pros do it! You will see that it is a great way to have a ball!

Are you ready? Let's start by getting all our materials together. First of course we must have tons of wet white snow! You have to have wet snow because wet snow sticks together and not wet snow won't stick together. We also need Hard Shape marbles. We need two of those for its beautiful eyes! We also need a tobogan for its regular sized head and it will also keep his ears warm! We also needs a warm scarf to keep him from chillin out! For his nose we are going to use a sturdy, pointy, and cool wood nose! His arms are going to be nice big sticks! For his buttons we need three erasers. His mouth we will use plastic lips. For his hair we need yarn that is braided! These are all of the things we need!

Are you ready to build our magnificent snowman? First we have to roll a big ball for the bottom. Once we have done this we have to roll a smaller ball for the middle section. When we have rolled it we have to pick it up and set it on top of the bottom ball. Next we have to roll an even smaller ball for its head. But don't forget to put it on top of the middle ball! Once we have all

(cont'd. from page 4)

three balls together we will start to put on all of the details! The first thing we do is we will put on the eyes! We also have to put its nose on! After we get done with that we are going to put his mouth on. You better not forget his hat to put on his head! We can't forget its arms made of sticks to stick in his sides. Are you ready to put on the buttons? Grab the buttons and lets stick them in! Now we have to put on the hair which is yarn! So lay it on its head and lets go on. That's all, we're done building, but we have to clean up!

Cleaning up is the easiest part! All we have to do is go inside take off our jackets and boots and cook some nice hot hot chocolate so let's go!

These are the things we do to make a cool looking snowman! It was fun and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did! Now we are happy that you now know how to make a big, fun, happy snowman! Do you enjoy this.? As you can tell we do! We enjoyed teaching you and hope you can help other people make theirs!

Euterpean Club

The Euterpean Club of Blackwell held their November meeting in the Methodist Church at 3:30 in the afternoon. After roll call the president Gypsy McMullin led members in reading the Club Collect. The minutes were read by secretary Sharon

Taylor and the treasurer's report was given by Heather Sanderson. Old and new business was then discussed. The meeting was then turned over to our guest speakers.

Aaron McConnell representing Merck and Co. Inc. spoke on drug interaction and bone loss due to osteoporosis. He also talked on new treatments and bone density tests. Question and answers followed and he was very informative.

Our second speaker was Terry Wilson. She is the Social Services Director from Rolling Plains Hospital. Her talk was on Advanced Directives and Durable Power of Attorney. The Living Will is still in effect if you already have one but it should be updated occasionally as medicine and people change. Another question and answer session followed her talk with members getting answers to many questions they had.

Hostesses Betty Cole and Karen McBride used fall colors in decorations. They served trays of vegetables and fresh fruit along with cookies and punch to the following members: Margaret Battle, Mary Burnett, Lillie Burwick, Sue Dean, Collene Fletcher, Tommie Lucas, Hulene Magness, Karen McBride, Dianne McGlothlin, Gypsy McMullin, Dona Sanderson, Heather Sanderson, Margaret Stout, Sharon Taylor, Rosemary Ten Eyck, Myrtle Thompson, and Bobbie Varnadore.

The next meeting of the Euterpean Club will be held December 14 in Lillie Burwick's home.



Robert Lee Elementary students enjoyed the recent snowfall by building snowmen. Pictured with their snowman is Cori Torres, Allison Millican and Arrin Minjarez.



Robert Lee Elementary students enjoyed the recent snowfall by building snowmen. Pictured with their snowman is Cameron Hodge, Norma Rojas and Dustin Moreno.



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T'WAS the first weekend in December and all through the town, the Chamber members were busy making Country Christmas sounds.

The stockings were hung and lights ready to beam, all we really needed was some little folks to sing.

Santa Claus is very special, not only does he have a sleigh, but a nice old fashion wagon filled with lots and lots of hay.

Memories are made at Christmas time and this event is no exception. The Community Room is where the kids will go, for their very own reception.

A Country Christmas in Bronte brings everyone out to the shops, and the reason for that is clear, because Bronte Chamber members all know Santa is near.

Open Houses abound throughout our little town, so please don't be shy, for the nice folks inside really welcome everybody to please ... please come on by.



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Please join us at the mini park downtown on December 1st at 5:30 pm for singing of Christmas carols by a special group of our very own kids. Christmas lights will be turned on throughout the town. The memory making event will take place at the Community Room for kids up to age 12. Activities will include story time with the "Grinch Who Stole Christmas," refreshments and activities with a special visit from Santa Claus. Businesses will be staying open late for your shopping convenience. Please remember, for every dollar you spend in your community - it's ONE more dollar with which you help your community to provide goods and services we all need, for today and tomorrow.

Saturday, December 2nd, businesses will have open house with refreshments. Food booths will line the streets. Fun will be had by all. Please remember to shop with your Bronte Chamber of Commerce members.

BRONTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

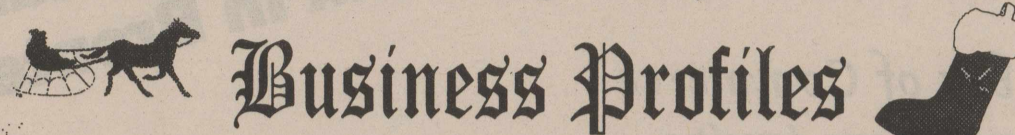
Family Membership

BRONTE JUNIOR

Senior Membership

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Coke County Christmas Business Profiles



Skinner's Grocery Store

Skinner's Grocery Store in Robert Lee is the oldest operating grocery and gas station in Robert Lee. It has been in operation since the Twenties and is now owned and operated by Jim and Geanette Skinner. The building grew in small increments over the years and, if there's time, shoppers should ask the Skinners how it came about. It is a full-service gas station, an inspection station, and flats are fixed as well. Jim says the grocery provides "quick grazins" including brisket sandwiches that make your mouth water. The Skinners also provide Longhorn cheese, peanuts in the shell and the world's best tomatoes.

The Skinners are offering a chance for customers to enter a drawing for a smoked ham with every purchase over \$5.00. The winner's name will be announced December 23rd. Behind the station are Geanette's prized boer goats.

Hometown Hardware

Hometown Hardware in Bronte was purchased by Wendell and Jeanna Lee in January 1977 from Aubrey and Zada Denman. The store began as White's Auto Store in 1947 by Mr. and Mrs. E.C. Bruton. The store was first located in the south corner of the lot that is now occupied by Town and Country. The Brutons owned the Cosden service station and operated the store in the building next to the station.

In 1948, Bruton purchased the building built in 1908 at the present location from the Keeneys. A variety store was in the west building and a funeral home in the east building.

In 1986 when the Lee's purchased the business, the name was changed to Hometown Hardware. Through the years a variety of merchandise has been added including livestock feeds and Wrangler jeans and shirts. The Lees and their employees provide old fashioned service in Hometown Hardware. Shoppers can get many ideas for presents by visiting the historic store.

Key Feed Store

Key Feed Store on Austin Street in Robert Lee was established in 1946 by David Key. His son, Joe David Key, joined his father in the business in 1974. The original store was in several locations in Robert Lee and moved to its present location in 1975 when the theatre and skating rink closed. The store recently became a part of the Ezell-Key Grain Company in Snyder, Texas. This company now consists of three retail feed stores in Big Spring, Snyder

and Robert Lee. They also operate one feed mill.

The feed store carries a full line of livestock feed, pet foods and supplies, fertilizers, lawn and garden products, pest control products, deer feeders, feeder timers, and solar panels for the feeders. Also available are ropes and horse tack, hay, and water softener salt (delivery available).

For a unique Christmas gift, shoppers might want to consider the local honey, gloves and bird houses available at Key Feed. Spring will be here before long and any gardener would appreciate a box of supplies and seed. Shoppers might consider giving themselves a gift of attracting birds with sunflower seeds and millet. Everyone is welcome to come by during Open House in Robert Lee.

Madison's Avenue

Madison's Avenue first opened in 1995 at 302 S. Franklin in Bronte. The house was built and brought to Bronte in 1948 by C.E. Bruton who was the grandfather of Linda (Spoonts) Massingill. That house was for Linda's parents to live in after World War II.

In 1998 the Massingills bought the history-filled house at 216 S. State. In 1941 C.E. Bruton bought the Carlile Hotel in Fort Chadbourne from Pate Fancher. The hotel was built in the early 1900's out of 12" shiplap boards. He had the hotel torn down and the lumber brought to Bronte to build the house that is now Madison's Avenue on State Street. Linda says that buying the house was like buying back personal history. When renovation began, the new owners found old canvas and wallpaper from the Carlile Hotel. The house is solid shiplap from the attic to the floor as well as the inside walls. The wood is so hard that every nail has to be drilled.

Madison's Avenue is named after Linda's granddaughter Madison Price. There are now five generations of history in the little shop. Women's and children's clothes, gifts, toys and antiques fill the house. The rooms are full of unique items. Even the kitchen and bathroom are filled with items

that are arranged with imagination and care. Linda is proud of her little shop filled with Coke County history and family pride.

Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio

Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio, located at 7 E. 6th St. in Robert Lee, is owned and operated by Suzann Johnson and beauty advisor Debbie McCabe.

The business has operated since April 1998. The studio became a "Gold Medallion" Studio in November 1999. "We are very proud of our recognition which is consistent with the reputation we have built for unsurpassed personal service in the second year of operating here in the community," says Suzann Johnson.

The studio carries a full line of cosmetics and accessories including sterling silver jewelry, 5 X make-up mirrors and candles. Gift certificates are also available.

"We also have free makeovers and free 5 minute facials. We are very proud of our store and would like to invite our friends and customers to come in and visit with us. We would like to help you with your beauty needs," Suzann says.

Personal

Craig Davis, 17-year-old grandson of Joan Davis and Add Davis, both of Robert Lee, and son of Mike Davis and Cynthia Davis of Abilene, has given his large extended family a lot of fun and excitement this football season. Craig is a senior at Abilene Wylie High School and is playing left offensive tackle for the Bulldogs who are now 11-0. After winning the bi-district title over Vernon in Ft. Worth last Friday, the club has drawn Aledo, also 11-0, for an area - title matchup on Friday, Nov. 24, at 7:30 in Garland. Aledo has had a #1 state ranking in Class 3A since the season opener.

Nadine and Joan Davis spent the weekend following the Bulldog game in the home of Billie and Dubb Wallace of Ft. Worth. The Wallace's children and grandchildren were also there.

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Elderly urged to participate in health poll

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center will conduct the largest health poll to date of elderly West Texas residents. The poll is being funded through a cooperative agreement with the US Administration on Aging. The poll, which will be conducted during the month of October through December, will assess health status, access to health care, health concerns, and health needs of a cross section of 5000 West Texans who are 65 years of age or older.

"Because of its scope, we believe this poll can have a major impact on the future availability of health care and health services for elderly residents of West Texas. However, the poll's credibility depends upon the willingness of these citizens to respond to our questions," said James Rohrer, PhD, director of the Texas Tech 5000 Senior Poll.

Rohrer said the results of the poll will be used to help channel health program and funding where they are needed most, and to assist in identifying and assessing the needs of elderly West Texans, particularly ethnic minorities and those who live in small towns and rural areas.

The poll will be conducted by telephone in English or Spanish according to the desires of the respondents. "The questions are straightforward and should be fairly easy to answer. The questions will ask for basic demographic information and for such information as the respondent's current health condition, number of recent doctor or hospital visits, and difficulties in accessing health care," said Rohrer.

Rohrer emphasized the confidential nature of the survey. "No one is going to be using the information we obtain to try to sell anyone any-

thing," he said. "The poll results are going to be carefully analyzed by Texas Tech staff members and made available, without personal identifiers, to health policy makers, health officials, and others at the state and federal level with responsibility for addressing the health needs and concerns of the elderly."

For more information, please contact James Rohrer, PhD, director, Texas Tech 5000 Senior Poll at (806) 743-3013 or Suzanna Cisneros-Martinez, associate director, News and Publications at (806) 743-2143.

OES meets at Bronte

Bronte Chapter #1048 Order of the Eastern Star held a meeting November 13, 2000. The program, given by Worthy Matron Earline Moore, honored the chapter's charter members. Those members present were Royce Lee, Dorothy Collins, Dorthey & Noel Pruitt, Jr., and Sybil and J. T. Henry. A gift was presented to each. This was also the chapter's 42nd birthday. The Worthy Matron also presented a wonderful Thanksgiving program enjoyed by all.

To the delight of everyone, the new carpet has been laid. It is beautiful. "Thanks again everyone" for all your hard work and support.

The chapter decided to have a cutlery and bake sale for their booth in Country Christmas in Bronte on Saturday, December 2, 2000. They will take orders for baked items to be delivered at a later date if they run out of items on that day.

Royce Lee gave a report on the Bronte Lady Longhorns volleyball team advance to the state playoffs. A Congratulations Card was sent to them from the chapter.

Refreshments were provided by Gayna & Buddy Eldred and Bob Clark.

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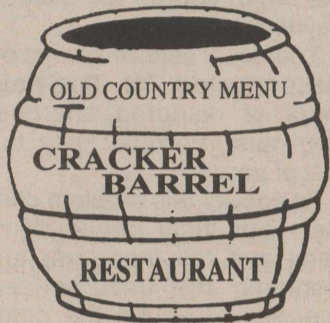
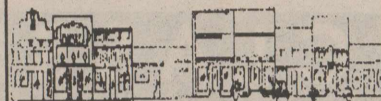
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**320 ACRES NEAR
BRONTE**
**600+ ACRES NEAR
ROBERT LEE**
**1200+ ACRES
MITCHELL COUNTY**

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Concho Realty*

5 E. 6th St.
Robert Lee, TX 76945
Contact

Joe Ash 453-2554
Marshall Milligan
453-9002
453-5005 Robert Lee
653-4535 San Angelo

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Hometown Hardware
Bronte, Texas
*A hometown store with old
fashioned service.*

WARNING
Do not buy a manufactured
home without seeing this
video tape. 915-655-6531.
15b-4tc

PUBLIC NOTICE
Taking application on all 2001
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refused. 1-800-698-8003.
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**COMMERCIAL
PROPERTY**
in Robert Lee. Previously
operated as a convenience/
grocery store. Good location
near school with highway
frontage. Call 915-453-2545.
46a-tnc

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10% DOWN 360 MON 8.5%
APR FIXED.
15b-4tc

OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN
4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, 2 story
home w/acreage.

BRICK HOME
Excellent condition, close to
school. Call for prices and for
appointment.



Lee Associates
453-2995

MARIA'S HOT TAMALES
\$6/dozen. Delivered daily
each morning. Call 453-2075.
13a-tnc

VERY NICE
clean, three bedroom, two
bath, two car garage with
openers. Storm cellar. Call
Becky. Century 21 Profes-
sionals. 915-944-0021.
18b-1tc

FOR SALE
3 bedroom/2 bath stucco
home. 20 x 24 metal shop, 2
car carport. 202 S. Randall,
Bronte. Call 473-3013.
18b-4tc

FOR RENT
BRONTE MINI STORAGE
has storage buildings for rent.
Call 473-2221.
14b-tnc

FOR RENT
3 bedroom, one bath house
in Bronte. Call 817-473-
3869.
18b-2tc

MISC
**KENNETHS
CONSTRUCTION**
Local professional roofing
done at reasonable rates.
Repair, replace, composition
or metal. Free estimates, work
guaranteed! 453-2339 &
453-4788.
15a-4tc

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Debora England, 223 N.
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Monday, Tuesday, Wednes-
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17b-tnc

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Complete systems, repairs,
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3004.

32b-tnc
Quality Film Processing
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at
Hometown Hardware
Bronte, Texas

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05a-tnc
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& CUSTOM FARMING**
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45b-tnc

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Residential & Commercial. All
types plumbing repair - new
construction, remodeling, fix-
tures, and sewer service. Li-
censed Master Plumber. 473-
2131, Bronte.

34b-tnc
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Texas Best
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Carpet Cleaning**
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Water Damage Service

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Repairs. Contact Don Parks
@ 453-2860 or 450-2767
mobile.

34a-tnc
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10% off Merle Norman Cosmetics

TREES TRIMMED
topped or removed. Call 453-
9902 after 6 pm.
37a-tnc

HELP WANTED
HELP WANTED
CNAs needed for all shifts.
Full time and part time. Com-
petitive pay. Contact Sarah
Lee, DON, Senior Citizens
Nursing Home, Winters.
Phone 754-4566.
36b-tnc

BRONTE ISD
is accepting applications for a
janitorial position. Contact
Alan Richey, Superintendent,
915-473-2511, or PO Box
670 Bronte, Texas, 76933.
Fax # 915-473-2313. Posi-
tion open until filled. Bronte
ISD is an Equal Opportunity
Employer.
17b-2tc

BRONTE ISD
is accepting applications for
the Fairview/San Angelo Bus
Route. CDL license and Bus
Driving Certificate required.
Contact Alan Richey, Superin-
tendent, 915-473-2511, or
PO Box 670, Bronte, Texas
76933. Fax # 915-473-2313.
Position open until filled.
Bronte ISD is an Equal Oppor-
tunity Employer.
17b-2tc

GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE
Sat. Nov. 25. 502 Washing-
ton St. Bronte. Under carport
8:00 am till everything is
gone. 2 bikes, exercise
equipment, ect.
18b-1tc

NOTICES

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC
SALE**

To the public and Teresa
Romine, Pursuant to Section
59.044 of the Texas Property
Code, notice is hereby given
of the sale of the contents of
Unit 151 of the storage facility
located at the northwest cor-
ner of Bishop Street and West
10th Street (TX 208) in Robert
Lee, TX. The storage unit is
held in the name of Teresa
Romine and the contents will
be sold to satisfy a contractual
landlord's lien. The sale will
be conducted no sooner than
30 Nov 00.

Allen Clendennen
17a-2tc

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC
SALE**

To the public and David
Cooksley. Pursuant to
Section 59.044 of the Texas
Property Code, notice is
hereby given of the sale of
the contents of Unit 42 of the
storage facility located at the
southeast corner of
Commerce Street (TX 158)
and East 6th Street in Robert
Lee, TX. The storage is held
in the name of David Cooksley
and the contents will be sold
to satisfy a contractual
landlord's lien. The contents
will be sold no sooner than 30
Nov 00.

Allen Clendennen
17a-2tc

Shaffer Funeral Home

Are you interested in Pre-
Planning your funeral
arrangements?

Are you interested in making this
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family?

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today's costs for services in the
future?

Call one of these representatives
for a free, no obligation
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473-3131
Kim Hodge
481-3131 or 453-4745
Fran Lomas • 453-2894
Dian Coulter • 743-2038

**Check phone bills
for unwanted
charges**

If you've ever found
charges on your phone bill for
services you didn't order or for
services you never received,
you may be the victim of
"cramming." Cramming is the
addition of charges to your bill
for unauthorized services.

Sometimes these charges
go unnoticed because cus-
tomers don't read their phone
bills closely. And sometimes
the charge is paid simply be-
cause customers don't un-
derstand what the charges are
for and are fearful their credit
rating will suffer or their phone
will be disconnected if they do

not pay. Telephone cus-
tomers in Texas have protec-
tions against cramming thanks
to Public Utility Commission
(PUC) rules. The rules specify
that before a charge for any
product or service can be
added to your phone bill, the
service provider must inform
you about the product and its
associated charges, obtain
your consent for the charges
and provide a toll-free line for
customers to call for informa-
tion.

If you find any unfamiliar
charges on your bill or
charges for a service you did
not order, you do not have to
pay those charges.

Your local service cannot be
disconnected for non-pay-
ment of disputed charges.
You must, however, pay the
rest of your bill.

To correct this problem con-
tact your local phone com-
pany and tell them you are
disputing the unauthorized
charges. Contact the com-
pany billing you for the unau-
thorized charges and tell them
you did not order the services
and will not pay for them. Tell
them to remove the charges
from your bill and not to bill
you in the future for those
charges.

If the charges are listed un-
der the name of a company
acting as a billing agent, be
sure to contact the company
making the charges and not
just the billing agent. The
billing agent may not be able
to remove the charges.

PUC rules require compa-
nies to refund or credit cus-
tomers who have paid unau-
thorized charges. A customer
must consent to charges for
services either in writing or
verbally to an independent
third part, not the company
selling the services. The
cramming company must
keep records of disputed
charges for at least two years,
including the customer's tele-
phone number, the date the
customer requested removal
of the unauthorized charges,
the date the charges were
removed and the date of re-
fund or credit to the customer.

Texas telephone customers
should receive a cramming bill
of rights from their phone
providers either by mail or in
phone directories.

If you think you have been
crammed, file a complaint with
the PUC. Companies that vio-
late the PUC's cramming rules
may be penalized up to
\$5,000 per day per violation.

For more information about
cramming, or if you have other
questions relating to your
telephone or electric service,
call the PUC toll free at 1-888-
PUC-TIPS (1-888-782-8477).

You may also write the Cust-
omer Protection Division at
P.O. Box 13326, Austin,
Texas 78711-3326, email the
PUC at
www.customer@puc.state.tx.
us or visit our Web site at
www.puc.state.tx.us.

**Abilene to host arts
and craft festival**

The eighth annual Abilene
Arts and Crafts Festival will be
held November 25th and 26th
in the Abilene Civic Center.
Exhibitors from throughout
the Southwest will fill the foyer
and main exhibit hall with
original art and handcrafted
items. There is no admission
charge.

Hidden signs of epilepsy

It's not unusual to see a child daydream, or appear distant and unresponsive - or for a toddler, just learning to walk, to suddenly fall for no apparent reason. But when these seemingly common behaviors occur often or in patterns, they actually may signal that a child is having seizures.

The Epilepsy Foundation considers the hidden signs of childhood epilepsy to be a significant problem nationwide. To help parents and caregivers of young children recognize the

common and little-known signs of epilepsy, the Epilepsy Foundation is launching the "Kids & Seizures: Know the Hidden Signs" campaign during National Epilepsy Month, November 2000.

Seizures are the most common neurological disorder of childhood. But not all seizures are convulsions, and symptoms can be difficult to recognize. Many of the "hidden" signs mimic normal behavior. Recognition of these signs is important in the early diagnosis and treatment to avoid learning disabilities, so-

cial problems and safety risks associated with epilepsy in young children. Early diagnosis offers the child with epilepsy a better chance of treatment success and a future free of seizures.

"Epilepsy can be particularly difficult to diagnose in young children because they are unable to clearly communicate what they are feeling," says Paul M. Levisohn, M.D., pediatric neurologist at Denver Children's Hospital. "The symptoms they display are often misinterpreted, which can lead to weeks and even months before a diagnosis is made." Although these signs don't necessarily mean a child has epilepsy, they should be brought to the attention of the doctor.

The "hidden signs" of seizures in children include:

- *Short attention blackouts that look like daydreaming.
- *Sudden falls for no reason.
- *Lack of response for brief periods.
- *Dazed behavior.
- *Unusual sleepiness and irritability when wakened from sleep.
- *Head nodding.
- *Rapid blinking
- *Frequent complaints from the child that things look, sound, taste, smell or feel "funny."
- *Clusters of "jackknife" movements by babies who are sitting down.
- *Clusters of grabbing movements with both arms in babies lying on their backs.
- *Sudden stomach pain followed by confusion and sleepiness.
- *Repeated movements that look out of place or unnatural.
- *Frequent stumbling or un-

usual clumsiness.

*Sudden repeated episodes of fear for no apparent reason.

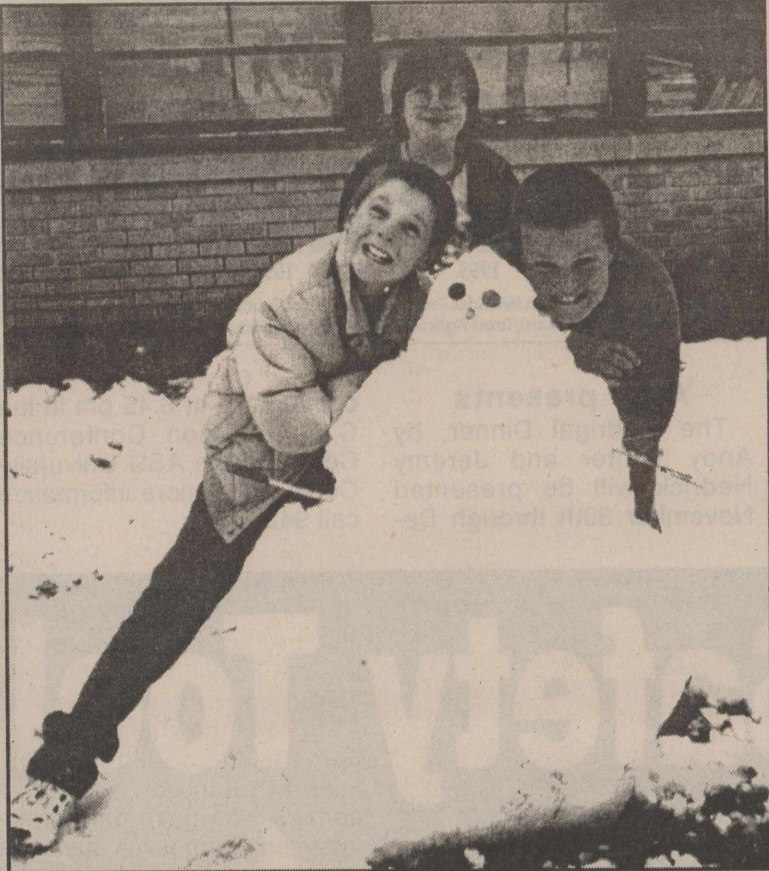
For more information on epilepsy and the "Kids & Seizures: Know the Hidden Signs" campaign, contact your local Epilepsy Foundation, or visit the Epilepsy Foundation's Web site, www.epilepsyfoundation.org.

The Epilepsy Foundation, with national offices in metropolitan Washington, D.C., and a network of affiliates throughout the nation, is the non-profit volunteer organization devoted to research for the cure, education, advocacy, and the provision of services in the com-

munity for people with seizure disorders and their families.

Helping rehab is helping others

WTRC President/CEO Woody Gilliland expressed appreciation to Cattlemen's Round-Up for Rehab general chairman Mike Alexander of Abilene and Carter Behrens of San Angelo as well as all donors, buyers, sponsors, volunteer chairmen and auction personnel for "helping Rehab help others in spite of their own tough times...for truly representing what neighbor-helping-neighbor is all about." Regional sales have generated \$253,252 through November 3.



Robert Lee Elementary students enjoyed the recent snowfall by building snowmen. Pictured with their snowman is Jimmy Womack, Jennifer Barrett and Cody Denton.



Robert Lee Elementary students enjoyed the recent snowfall by building snowmen. Pictured with their snowman is Gaby Saucedo, Amy Barnett and Ashley Hopson.

Award-Winning Chef Shares Recipe Guaranteed To Spice Up Thanksgiving

(DM)—Rudy Garcia, past president of Los Angeles Chef de Cuisine and executive chef instructor at Los Angeles Mission College Culinary Arts Department, has been tantalizing taste buds for many years with his signature method of combining multilayers of flavor, color, and texture. A winner of many culinary competitions, Rudy Garcia's credentials also include membership in the elite society of the American Academy of Chefs.

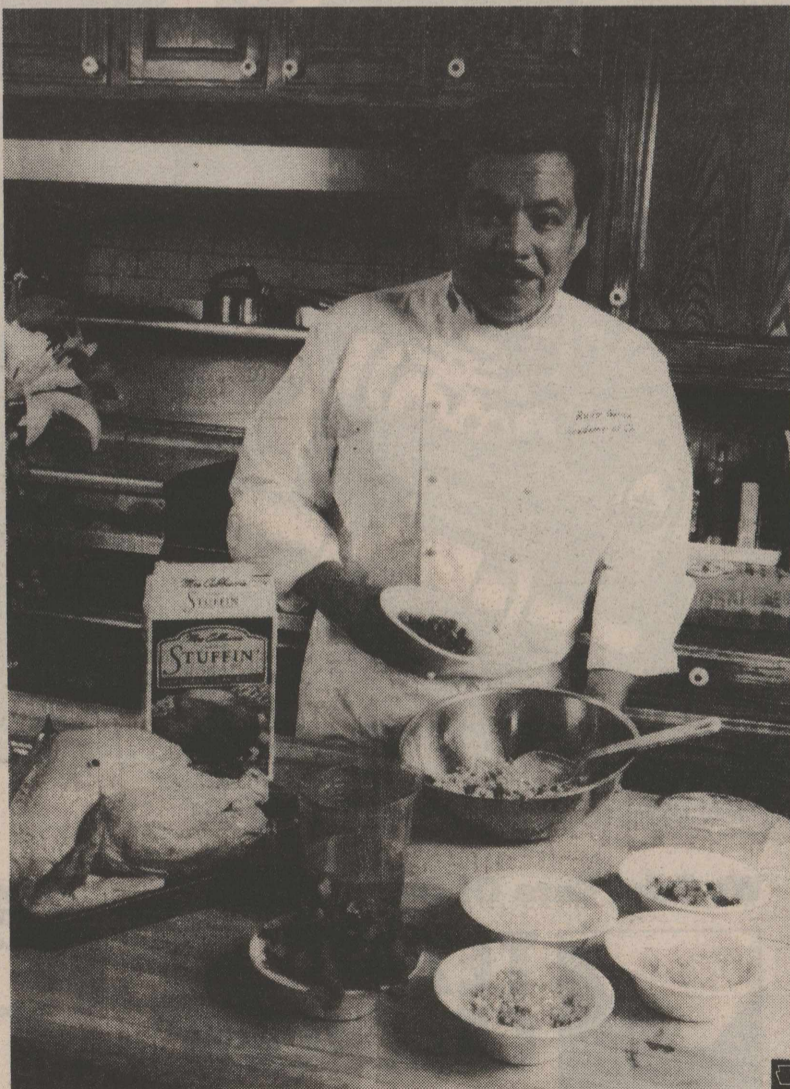
Garcia encourages home cooks to be creative and add their own choice of favorite ingredients to personalize their stuffin' recipe, such as mushrooms, carrots, onions, black olives, pimientos, sausage or even Parmesan cheese. To make a fruit dressing, he suggests using apple juice or wine as the liquid, and adding apples, raisins, cranberries, almonds, or sliced cling peaches.

Garcia marries tradition with innovation in this Latino-infused recipe for Confetti Cornbread Stuffin'.

CONFETTI CORNBREAD STUFFIN'

- 1 box (two 6 oz. bags) Mrs. Cubbison's Corn Bread Stuffin'
- 1 cup green bell pepper
- 1 cup yellow bell pepper
- 1 cup red bell pepper
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup chopped cilantro
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1 cup chicken broth or stock
- 1 cup melted butter or margarine
- 1 16 oz. can whole kernel corn
- 1 bunch green onions, thinly sliced

Note: For an extra Latino flavor, add a 16 oz. can of Ortega chilies, drained.



Combine peppers, onion, garlic and celery. Briefly sauté the vegetables in the melted butter until transparent. Add corn and chili peppers if desired and cook for a few more minutes. Remove from heat. Take two packages of stuffin' mix, put in

a large mixing bowl, and combine with vegetables. Add the green onion and cilantro. Let dressing cool before placing in turkey or for a casserole put in a greased casserole dish and bake 30-45 minutes in 350-degree oven. Makes 10-12 cup servings.

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* SNACKS *

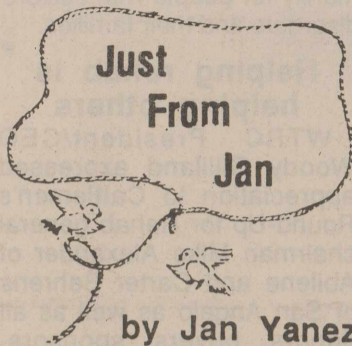
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Safe &
Happy**

THANKSGIVING DAY

Bell Auto Body Shop

Robert Lee 453-2640



by Jan Yanez
Coke County
Ext. Agent

Turkey helpful hints

Hints for doneness:

A meat thermometer is the best guide to turkey doneness. For whole turkey, insert meat thermometer into thickest part of inner thigh, not touching bone. When whole turkey is done, the thermometer should read 180 - 185 degrees F.

For turkey breast, insert the meat thermometer into the thickest part of breast, not touching bone. When breast is done, the thermometer should read 170 - 175 degrees F.

No meat thermometer? Press thickest part of drumstick with protected fingers. The turkey is done if meat feels soft and drumstick twists easily in socket.

Another test for doneness is to insert a long tined fork into thickest part of turkey thigh. If juices are clear, not pink, the turkey is done.

Hints for food safety:

Do not defrost turkey at room temperature. In the time it takes to defrost, the surface of the turkey could become warm enough for bacteria to multiply to dangerous levels. Always refrigerate a fresh or defrosted turkey. Cook within 2 to 3 days.

Never partially cook turkey and finish cooking later.

Hints for leftovers:

After cooking remove stuffing immediately and slice turkey. Keep extra stuffing hot in a 200 degrees F oven while you eat. Never leave turkey, stuffing or gravy at room temperature for more than 2 hours.

Refrigerate and use leftover turkey, stuffing and gravy within 2 to 4 days. Wrap leftovers in foil and freeze for longer storage. Use within 1 to 2 months.

Continuing education for Judge

Judge Walker attended the Fall 2000 Judicial Institute in Lubbock presented by the Texas Association of Counties. The agenda was of great timing and benefit for all that attended. The following was presented and discussed; Legal Reasoning, Diversity 2000 - Managing Differences, Cracking Down on Family Violence, Family Violence Protective Orders, Indigent Legal Defense, Ethics, Courtroom Procedures, Probate and Guardianship, Criminal Procedure and the Offender of Mental Illness, Alternative Handling of Mentally Ill Offender, Bail Bond Forfeitures and the Bench Book, and its update. Sixteen hours of continuing education was granted for the above.

The water in Utah's Great Salt lake is between four and seven times saltier than ocean water.



Robert Lee Elementary students enjoyed the recent snowfall by building snowmen. Pictured with their snowman is Megan Robinson, Michael Rodriguez and Kasie Skinner.

- Bronte Chapter #1048 OES Scholarship Memorial Fund**
- Wm. "Bill" Fletcher
Buddy & Gayna Eldred, Gary & Della Shaffer and Ettie Hubbard
 - Gary Boyer
Buddy & Gayna Eldred
 - James "Maxie" McClure
Buddy & Gayna Eldred
 - Georgia Stark
Lois Loyd
 - Jessie Eads, III
Buddy & Gayna Eldred
 - Susie Wilson
Buddy & Gayna Eldred

SS services on the Internet

by Fredi Franki
Manager of Social Security Social Security, a recognized leader in Internet technology, offers several online transactions to make it easier for you to do business with us.

*Field Office Locator-The Social Security Office Locator enables you to locate the nearest Social Security office based on your zip code.

*Request for a Social Security Statement-Your Social Security Statement will display a year-by-year accounting of earnings that have been reported to your Social Security record. You will also find estimates of the benefits you and your family may be eligible for now and in the future.

*Request a Social Security Benefit Statement (Form 1099) - This statement contains a summary of Social Security benefits paid to you during the previous year. You can use this statement when you are completing your federal income tax return to find out if any of your benefits are subject to tax. (NOTE: These forms are mailed automatically each year in January to everyone receiving Social Security benefits.) If you don't receive the Form 1099 or if it is damaged, you can request a replacement online.

Keeping an Eye on Texas

Stuffed

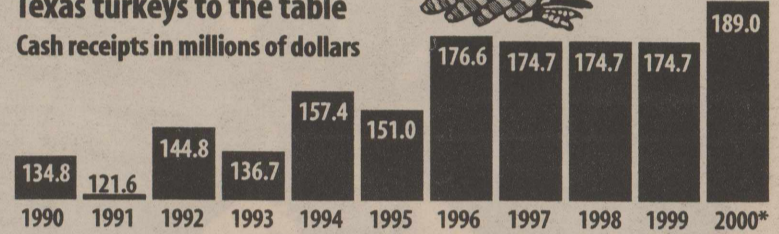
When it comes to turkey, Texans do the gobbling. Turkey producers saw their sales grow nearly 30 percent in the 1990s, from close to \$135 million in 1990 to nearly \$175 million in 1999. The Texas Agricultural Extension Service projects \$189 million worth of turkeys will be sold from Texas farms this year.

The wild birds are popular too. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department issued 69,073 turkey hunting permits in 1999, and 25,188 turkeys were bagged.



Texas turkeys to the table

Cash receipts in millions of dollars



SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (www.window.state.tx.us), Texas Agricultural Extension Service. *Projected

ASU presents

The Madrigal Dinner, by Andy Winter and Jeremy Hedrick will be presented November 30th through De-

cember 3rd at 6:45 pm in the C.J. Davidson Conference Center at the ASU University Center. For more information call 942-2000.

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