

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

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Serving Coke County

Vol. 114, No. 22

Friday, December 21, 2001

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

Churches plan candlelight Christmas eve ceremonies

RLBC slates Candlelight Service

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held at the Robert Lee Baptist Church on Monday, December 24th from 6:30-7:00 pm. All family and friends are welcome to attend. Dress is casual.

BUMC to hold Candlelight Worship

Bronte United Methodist Church invites all residents of Coke County to come "Home for Christmas." Worshipers will sing Christmas carols and hear about the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem during the Christmas Eve service. Scripture readings will tell of the angels' visit to shepherds keeping watch by night and their joy at finding the baby in a manger.

No paper next week

As is our custom, this is the final issue of the *Observer/Enterprise* for the year 2001. Our postal permit allows us 51 issues per year, and the week following Christmas seems to be a good time to allow our employees time to be with their families.

We hope you have a wonderful holiday season, and best wishes for the new year.

The activities will begin at 6:30 pm with a time of fellowship and light refreshments followed by the Candlelight service at 7:00 pm. The service will include special music by Pastor Paul Evans and Vanessa Fuentes as well as Christmas carols performed by the House of Faith children. The celebration will conclude with the singing of "Silent Night" while worshipers light individual candles to symbolize the light of Christ coming into the world.

Coke County Courthouse closing

The Coke County courthouse in Robert Lee will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday. The courthouse will also observe the New Year's holiday the following week by closing on Monday, Dec. 31, and January 01, 2002.

Robert Lee landfill closing

Due to maintenance and landfill inspections, the Robert Lee landfill will close on Saturdays beginning December 15th and will re-open on Saturday, January 5th. The City apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.



Bronte parade pictures needed

by Hal Spain, Publisher
I'd like to start by congratulating the Bronte Chamber of Commerce and the school classes and other parade entries for such a wonderful parade in Bronte on Tuesday, December 18. The sponsors and participants deserve a pat on the back for such good participation with many colorful floats.

The bad news is that when I started developing my pictures for the parade, I found out very quickly that the low light conditions and the moving targets blurred all my parade pictures to the point that none of the faces were recognizable. The only good news is that I got some pic-

tures of youngsters with Santa, and they should be included in this issue.

We are requesting that the Bronte Chamber or any individuals who might have some good pictures of the parade turn them in to the paper, and we will run them after the first of the year. Please accept our apologies for not having them in this issue, and if some can be obtained, we will run them in the first issues of 2002.

We very much appreciate the participation of all the local merchants and individuals who make this issue possible, and we wish you and yours the best during the upcoming holiday season.

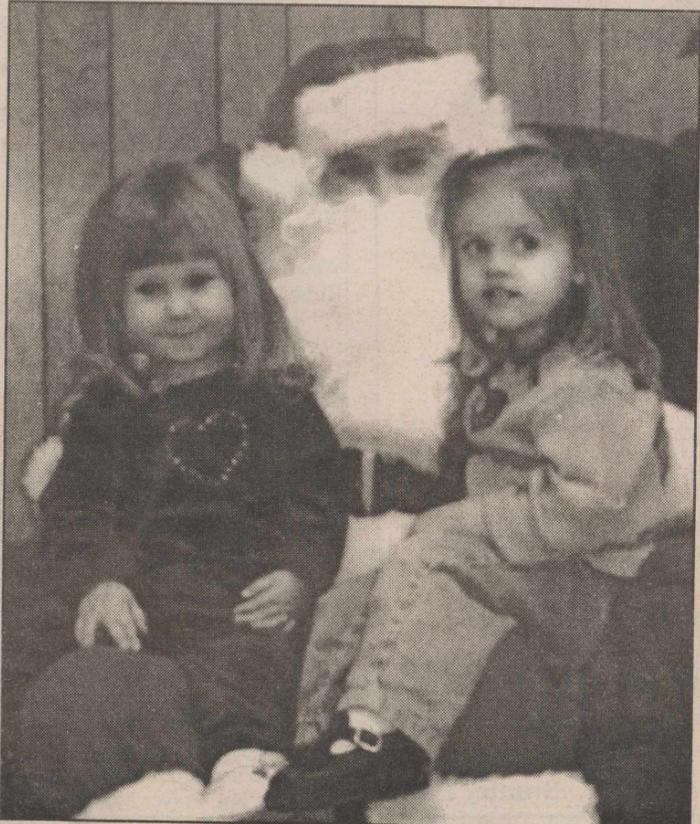
Notice to taxpayers

As the Christmas season ar-

rives, so does the deadline to pay your property taxes in the 2001 calendar year. December 31, 2001 is a holiday for the Coke County Courthouse; so for those taxpayers who like to wait until the last day of the year to pay taxes please take note.

You may come in person on January 2, 2002 to pay your taxes and your receipt will reflect a December 2001 payment date. Also, payment may be made by mail and any envelope displaying a postage date no later than December 31, 2001 also qualifies as a December 2001 payment date.

If you have any questions concerning payment dates please call Coke County Tax Office at 453-2614.



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STAFF

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

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

Krall

Mary Krall, 74, of Anchorage, Alaska, and formerly of Robert Lee, died there on December 5, 2001. Funeral service was conducted in Anchorage on Saturday, December 8 in Chugiak United Methodist Church.

Survivors include her son, Mark Krall of Anchorage; two granddaughters; one great-granddaughter; one great-grandson; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Hubbard

Memorial funeral services were held on Friday, Dec. 14, for David Edmund Hubbard at Robert Massie Funeral Home Chapel in San Angelo. A former resident of Robert Lee, he died on Wednesday, Dec. 12 in San Angelo.

David is survived by his mother, Gloria Nelson and husband, Neil of San Angelo; father, James Hubbard of San Angelo; sister, Tracy Myers of Plano; brother, Steven Hubbard and wife, Sharon, of San Angelo; one niece, Misti Myers, of Plano; his grandmother, Dean Block of Monrovia, California; and several aunts and uncles.

Tavarez graduates Golf Academy

Jason Tavarez graduated on Friday, December 7, 2001, from the Golf Academy of the Carolina's. Jason has been attending the Golf Academy in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for the last two years. He graduated with an Associates of Applied Business Degree in Golf Complex and Operations. He is pursuing an Assistant Pro's position, with more school to follow for his Golf Pro Status.

Jason is the son of Mario and Sheryl Tavarez.

Coke County employees receive recognition

Coke County employees enjoyed a covered dish luncheon at the courthouse Monday, December 17, 2001. As usual there was too many good cooks and everyone needed to go home and take a nap after eating.

Judge Walker presented employees with ten or more years of service with the county certificates of appreciation. The employees include: 10 years - Joan Davis, Robert Feil, Gayle Sisemore, Sharon Lee; 11 years - Gene Montgomery, Sheriff Rick Styles, Paul Burns; 12 years - Wayne McCutchen; 15 years - Jan Yanez; 16 years - Jimmie Walker, Phelan Wrinkle; 18 years - Tommy Antilley; 19 years - Stover Taylor; 22 years - Marshall Millican. It takes 10 years to be vested in the County Retirement plan.

Coke County is fortunate to have the tenure in county employment.

Local resident elected to Texas Baptist board

An area resident was elected to a major position on a Texas Baptist board during the annual meeting of the 2.7 million-member Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Virginia Fikes, retired, Texas State Comptroller, was elected to the board of Baptist Memorials Ministries.

Texas Baptist institutions include eight universities, San Marcos Baptist Academy, Valley Baptist Missions/Education Center in Harlingen, Hispanic Baptist Theological School in San Antonio, hospital systems, child care institutions and homes for the aging in multiple locations throughout the state.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas exists to help churches and related ministries "be the presence of Christ in the world."

Downtown renovation meeting scheduled

The Coke County Extension Planning Council will host a meeting concerning economic development and downtown renovation on Thursday, December 20, beginning at 7:00 pm in the Robert Lee Senior Citizens building. Following a short business meeting, Nancy Lester, Schleicher County Extension Agent will present a program on economic development of the downtown areas. Nancy has been the leading force in the development of the Eldorado downtown area and enhancement of the economic status of Eldorado, winning several awards for her efforts.

With the recently passed sales tax for economic development and the renovation of the Coke County Jail project and Fort Chadbourne project ongoing, there has been significant interest in the development of a "new look" for our communities.

At this meeting, we hope to have some idea sharing and Nancy will give us some do's and don'ts for downtown projects. Everyone is invited to attend.

SA Historical & Genealogy meeting slated

The San Angelo Genealogical & Historical Society will meet at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2002 at the Church of Christ at 901 N. Main Street fellowship hall in San Angelo.

All meetings are open to the public. For more information call Portia Davis 915-655-6494.

RLVFD news

by Marian Thompson
Secretary

The fire department held its monthly meeting on December 17th, with 10 members and 2 visitors present. The minutes and treasurers reports were approved.

Bud Thompson gave the monthly report for November: 2 regular meetings - 44 man hours; 1 live fire training - 11 man hours; 45 1/2 man hours for drills and activities; 1 assist WCCEMS with landing zone; 4 fire calls (2 county and 2 city) - 28 3/4 man hours - 5 truck hours - 16 1/2 truck miles one way; 1 motor vehicle accident; 1 truck fire; 1 equipment fire; and 1 LZ.

The meeting was turned over to Beth Prather who explained what is needed to get a grant to renovate the old 1/2 of the fire station. The Standing Committee will work with Ms. Prather and Kay Torres to get the needed information.

The next meeting will be held on January 7th.

The RLVFD needs volunteers. With a current membership of 21 persons, only a handful are available weekdays. This is a serious situation and should be of concern to everyone for the fire protection of the city and surrounding areas.

All the firemen who attend 40% of drills and 25% of the fires, receive the minimum off their water bills from the city, as well as retirement and on the job injury insurance after the probationary period.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the RLVFD should fill out a form at City Hall for retirement and insurance purposes. For further information, contact Fire Chief Rick Drennan, Fire Marshall Bud Thompson or City

Secretary Kay Torres, or any fireman.

The department meets the first and third Mondays of each month. The second Monday of each month is for training classes to become certified firemen.

Cadets, ages 16 to 18 years, with parents' consent, will receive fire and rescue training.

"Flowers of the Holy night"

Native to Central America, poinsettias are called "flores de noche buena" or "flowers of the holy night." A legend says a poor Mexican girl without a gift for Christmas Eve services picked a bouquet of roadside weeds. When she placed the only gift she had at the church nativity scene, the bouquet burst into bright red blooms. More factual is how the plant got to America and came to be called poinsettia. Joel Roberts Poinsett, first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, had a great interest in botany. He found a shrub with red flowers growing in Mexico in 1828 and sent cuttings to his native South Carolina greenhouse. The plant was later named in his honor.

The first Times Square New Year's Eve ball lowering ceremony took place in 1907 and has continued annually ever since.

Churches of Robert Lee

Invite You to Worship

Emmanuel Pentecostal
PO Box 683 • 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
PO Box 638 • Robert Lee
(915) 453-2208

Rev. Erma Johnson, Pastor
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship

Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting

HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

All facilities of these banks will be

CLOSED

Tuesday, December 25th

Tuesday, January 1st

Closing at 2 pm Christmas Eve,

Monday, December 24.

In Observance Of

Christmas & New Year's Day



Please plan your banking requirements to avoid any inconvenience.

Robert Lee State Bank

First National Bank in Bronte

Member FDIC
453-2545

Robert Lee, TX

Member FDIC
473-2911

Bronte, TX

I would like to announce my candidacy for Coke County Commissioner, Precinct 2. I was appointed to fill the remainder of Wayne McCutchen's term, and would like to serve the people of Precinct 2 in my own term of office.

I would appreciate your support and vote in the upcoming primary and general elections.

**Bill Wheat
Commissioner, Precinct 2**

Coke County

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Bill Wheat, 276 Wheat Circle, Oak Creek Lake.

Check out
 ✓ Coke Co.
 Library

Coke County Library news

The Coke County Library has received some donations of interest to patrons: Coping with Caregiving, Caring for Yourself While Caring for Your Aging Parents, and a video entitled Caregiver Survival Kit. Also of interest are several books on the Internet and computers concerning health and medical resources, Quickbooks 99 and online searches.

Two boxes of paperback books have been received including mystery, romance, true crime and other non-fiction books.

The library will be closed December 25 for Christmas, but will open December 26th. Reading is a good way to decompress after the holidays.

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. The library appreciates the Bronte patrons who pick up the books and bring them back to the library.

Sloniger - Woodard exchange vows

Betty Jo Sloniger of Tyler and John G. Woodard of Robert Lee were married December 15, 2001, in the home of the bride's eldest daughter, Mrs. David Hudnall of Jacksonville, Texas.

The bride was given in marriage by her son, Mr. Lance Sloniger of Ft. Worth. Matron of Honor was Mrs. Murnice Gandy. The best man was Mr. Todd Woodard, son of the groom.

Dr. Carrol Green, brother of the bride, performed the ceremony. Music was provided by Mrs. Hudnall and two daughters, Brooke and Sunny.

The bride and groom, both graduates of Newman High School in Sweetwater, will make a trip out of the state and return to be at home in Tyler.

City Hall closed for holidays

The City of Robert Lee will observe Christmas and New Years holidays and will close on December 24th & 25th, and January 1st. Tuesday route trash service will be picked up on Monday, December 24th and on Monday, December 31st. Happy Holidays!!

Divinity

3 cups sugar
 1/2 cup white karo
 2/3 cup water
 1/4 tsp. salt
 2 egg whites
 1 cup nuts
 1 tsp. vanilla
 Boil sugar, syrup, water & salt to hard boil on candy thermometer (254 degrees). When almost ready, beat egg whites to peaks in large bowl - stiff but not dry. Slowly pour hot syrup little at a time into whites, beating hard and fast. After all syrup has been added, continue to beat till shinny gloss is gone & it looks grainy. Add vanilla & nuts.

Dreamcatcher

Native American Legend...good dreams slip through the web and into the sleeper during the night...bad dreams become caught in the web and are perished by morning light.



Jordan Digby was crowned Miss San Angelo in the Tiny Miss Division Saturday, November 24, 2001. She also won best portfolio and sang "You Are My Sunshine" to win the talent division. Jordan is the daughter of Joe and Nikki Digby, sister of Janzen Digby, all of San Angelo, and the granddaughter of Mario and Sheryl Tavarez of Robert Lee.

LONE STAR CARDS WELCOME Super H IGA LIMIT RIGHTS RESERVED

501 Commerce - Robert Lee, TX
 Store Hrs: Mon.-Sat. 8-8 Sun. 8-6
 SPECIALS GOOD 12/19 Thru 12/25



Cook's Ham
 Shank
 5 Lb. Exact Weight
Golden Smoked Boneless Ham
 Ea. \$6.49



Sunkist Large
Navel Oranges
 3 Lb. / \$1
 Grade A Large
IGA Eggs
 2 12 Ct. Ctn. / \$1



Selected Varieties
Gold Medal Flour
 4.25 - 5 Lb. Bag .69
 Selected Varieties
Cool Whip Topping
 8 oz. tub .59



Selected Varieties
Green Giant Frozen Vegetables
 2 16 oz. Bag / \$1
 Selected Varieties
Lay's Potato Chips
 12.25 oz. pkg. \$1.99

This year, give the gift that won't be broken, worn-out, lost or out of style 4 weeks after the holidays.



HOLIDAY SPECIAL
FREE CABLE TV INSTALLATION AND WIRING ON TWO TVs

YOUR CHOICE OF SERVICES
STANDARD BASIC AND/OR PREMIUM UPGRADES

Current Customers: Get FREE Installation on a second set and/or FREE premium upgrade! (No charge for standard basic on an additional set.)

Choose America's favorite home entertainment value... the wonderful world of Cable TV.



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For new and current subscribers or previous subscribers whose accounts are in good standing. Cabled areas only. Offer expires 12/31/01 or at the discretion of the cable company. Other restrictions may apply.

BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS

Bronte Longhorn basketball results

On Tuesday, December 11, the Bronte Longhorns defeated the Garden City Barkats 46-40. Scoring for the Horns were: Charlie Bettis - 15 points, 9 rebounds, and 4 assists; Joel Webb - 14 points, 9 rebounds, and 3 steals; BJ Hall - 8 points; Dalton Graves - 6 points, 13 rebounds; Scott Snyder - 2 points; and Cody Lee - 1 point.

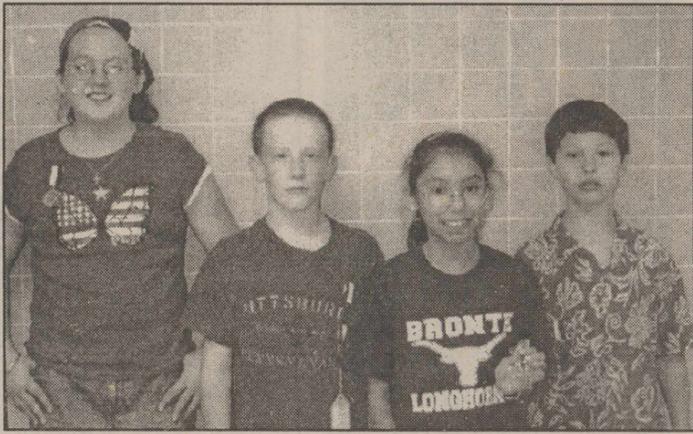
The Junior Varsity boys bested Garden City 32-28. Scoring for the Horns were: J. Minjarez - 2; C. Williams - 4; B. Dyess - 1; C. Moore - 19; K. Hoyt - 2; and J. Israel - 4.

On Friday, December 14, both the Varsity and JV teams defeated Sterling City. The varsity took a 46-38 win, with scoring as follows: Charlie Bettis - 16 points, 9 rebounds, and 5 assists; BJ Hall - 10 points; Dalton Graves - 9 points, 8 rebounds; Joel Webb - 7 points, 6 rebounds; Cody Lee - 2 points, 3 steals; and Tyson Baker - 2 points.

The JV team defeated Sterling City 44-18, with the scoring as follows: J. Minjarez - 3; C. Williams - 16; B. Dyess - 3; C. Moore - 14; K. Hoyt - 6; and J. Israel - 2.

Bronte JH boys teams top RL

Bronte's 8th grade boys basketball team played a close game with Robert Lee's 8th graders Tuesday night, winning 15-11. The leading scorers for Bronte were Logan Rawls with 10 points, Riley Coalson with 3 points, and Jaylon Saunders with 2 points. The Shorthorns were helped with great defensive play by Zach White, Reece Braswell, Jonathan Brannon, and Garrett Acker. The



The Bronte Sixth Grade Music Memory team placed first at the elementary UIL Academic meet at Angelo State University December 1. Team members are (from left) Casey Harris, Gus Saunders, Stephanie Flores, and Chris Brown.

Shorthorn records stands at 3-2.

Bronte's 7th grade boys basketball team overcame a late rally by Robert Lee to win a close one 15-14. Leading the 7th graders with points were Phillip Rawlings and Jonathan Ehl, scoring 6 points each. Jonathan Marrs added 2 points, and Eric Hendrickson had 1 point. On the defensive end of the floor, Mason Jackson, Juston Taylor, Josh Scott, and Tim Gilbreath were outstanding. The 7th graders are 3-2 on the year.

Lady Horns defeat Loraine

On Tuesday, December 4, the Lady Horns won an impressive victory over Loraine at home by a score of 70-24. Individual stats for the Ladies were: B. McCutchen - 15 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal, and 2 assists; N. Reed - 4 points, 5 rebounds; C. Monsey - 12 points, 5 rebounds, 2 steals, and 2 assists; K. Coalson - 4 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal; K. Hilliard - 2 points, 5 rebounds, 2 steals, and 2 assists; L. Williams - 13 points, 11 rebounds, 5 steals, and 1 assist;

L. Springer - 3 points, 8 rebounds, and 2 assists; and H. Richey - 17 points, 16 rebounds, 3 steals, and 1 block. According to their coach, "the girls played well!"

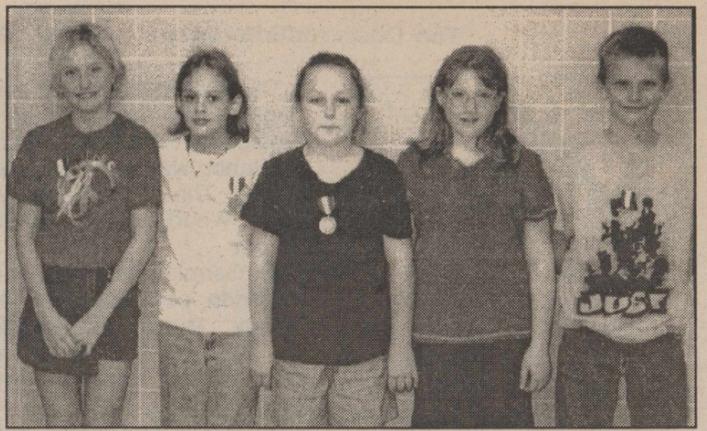
Bronte JH girls lose to RL

The Bronte Junior High girls "B" team lost to Robert Lee 2-22. Melissa Palmer scored the two points for Bronte.

Bronte's Junior High "A" team lost to Robert Lee 19-26. Scoring is as follows: Cheyenne Webb, Megan Gibbs, and Chris Kelly - 4 each; Lilly McMullan - 3; and Rebecca Rawlings and Sarah Basquez - 2 each (the entire team scored buckets).

Festive Cheese Ball
2 - 8 oz. pkgs. cream cheese/softened
1/4 cup green pepper, finely chopped
1 Tbs. minced onion
1 - 8 oz. can crushed pineapple

Mix all ingredients with electric mixer. Shape into ball and roll in 1 cup chopped pecans.



The Bronte Fourth Grade Music Memory team placed second at the elementary UIL Academic meet at Angelo State University December 1. Team members are (from left) Chelsea Cook, Ashley Royall, Chloe Grigg, Kasey Glover and Hayden White.



The Bronte Fifth Grade Music Memory team placed second at the elementary UIL Academic meet at Angelo State University December 1. Team members are (from left) Cory Glover, Ty Mackey, Matthew Allen, Geoffery Ehl, and (not pictured) Crystal Minjarez.

SCHOOL MENU

Breakfast

Monday, Dec. 31
Holiday
Tuesday, Jan. 01
Holiday
Wednesday, Jan. 02
Holiday
Thursday, Jan. 03
Breakfast pizza, mixed fruit, milk
Friday, Jan. 04
French toast sticks, orange juice, milk

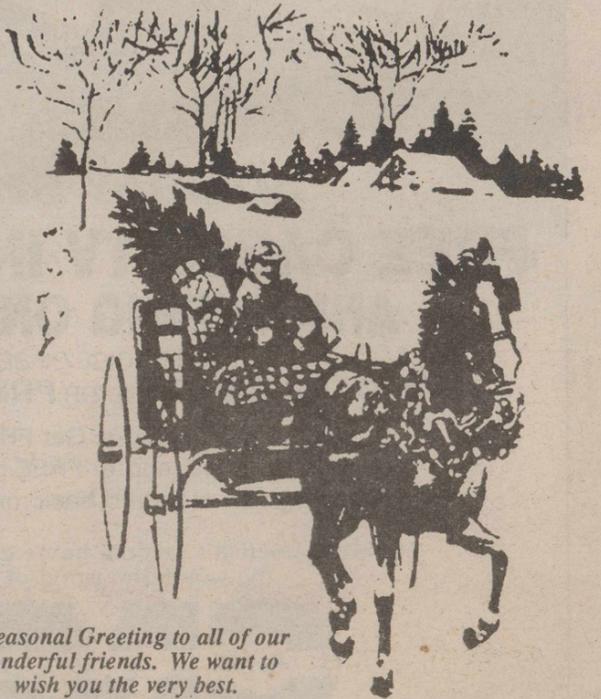
Lunch

Monday, Dec. 31
Holiday
Tuesday, Jan. 01
Holiday
Wednesday, Jan. 02
Holiday
Thursday, Jan. 03
Chicken nuggets with gravy, creamed potatoes, green beans, diced pears, rolls, milk
Friday, Jan. 04
Cheese burgers, lettuce, tomato, pickles, potato wedges, bun, brownies, milk

MERRY CHRISTMAS! CLOUD 9 VIDEOS

415 N. FRANKLIN
473-2238 • TANYA BURWICK

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!



A Seasonal Greeting to all of our wonderful friends. We want to wish you the very best.

Hometown Hardware

Feed & Supply • Bronte, Texas
Wendell & Joanna Lee

We will be closed December 25 and January 1st.

Bronte school board news

The Bronte ISD Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on December 13, 2001, at 6:30 pm. David Scott, Jolene Henderson, and Doug Hoyt were absent from the meeting.

Burl Lowery, CPA, met with the board and reviewed the 2000-2001 audit report. Mr. Lowery reported that the district was in sound financial condition and it was a clean audit with no areas being out of compliance.

Brittany Lloyd and Angel Cervenka presented the findings of the Committee on Child Care Solutions.

The principals gave their reports. Terry Marrs, Elementary Principal, and Rick Howell, Secondary, reported on the District elementary and junior high UIL meet.

The Property, Auto, Casualty, Liability, and Errors and Omissions Insurance proposals were discussed. It was approved to go with Key Piskuran Insurance Agency for all the policies.

The following items were also approved and agreements signed by the board: Legal Retainer Services with Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Schulze & Aldridge and the Shared Services Agreement with Menard Special Ed Cop.

Mr. Richey informed the board that the district is negotiating a power contract with the General Land Office.

The board approved the TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 67 with changes made to CNC Local.

The board considered and approved an administrative plan regarding notification and hiring practices of instructional aides desiring to become certified teachers as presented by the Superintendent. Copy of the local plan is on file in the Superintendent's office.

Campus improvement plans from the secondary campus, elementary campus, and the CCJJC campus were presented by the principals and reviewed by the board. The

board approved the plans as presented.

Terry Marrs, elementary principal, reported that Diane McGlothlin has been hired as a Special Ed aide.

Alan Richey, Superintendent, gave his report to the board. The progress of the building project saying that more concrete will be poured in the next few days. The TEA initial report on the ESL visit showed no indicators out of compliance. The board was updated on the TEA transportation report. The school will have a make-up day on February 11, 2002, for the school day missed on November 27th, due to the snow.

Mr. Richey reminded the board of the plans for the Christmas party, December 18th, at 7:00 pm in the cafeteria.

Board correspondence included information on a Grass Roots meeting January 17, 2002, at ESC Region XV.

The November 2001 bills were reviewed by the board and approved.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be January 10, 2002, 7:00 pm.

Editor's Note: The following editorial, among the most famous ever written, appeared in the New York Sun in 1897 and remains appropriate for this holiday season 98 years later.

Is There a Santa Claus?

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

Dear Editor! I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

Papa says, 'If you see it in The Sun it's so.'

Please tell me the truth: Is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon
115 West Ninety-Fifth Street.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been

affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal life with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

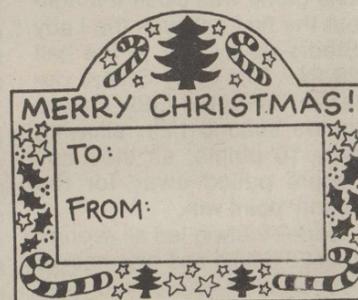
Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can



see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.



Merry Christmas
from the
Macons
Willie, Kim, C. J., Terrah & Will

Seasons Greetings
from
Larry's Automotive

Larry, Gwen, & Blaine
473-4014 • Bronte

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING...

We're extending our very best wishes to you and yours for a holiday filled with good friends and cheer.

We're proud to be a part of this fine community and are grateful for the opportunity to serve you.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HALL'S SUPER SAVE GROCERY
B & K DEER PROCESSING
HALL OF FAME TAXIDERMY
THE HALL FAMILY

ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS

Lady Steer results

After reeling off nine consecutive wins to begin the 2001-2002 season, the Lady Steers met defeat on last Tuesday night as they fell to the hosting Coahoma Bulldoggettes 53-54.

Whitney Millican led the Lady Steers in scoring and rebounding as she scored 18 points and pulled down 6 rebounds. Jennifer Alexander had her best game of the season, as she hit on 3 of 5 three point attempts and finished with 16 points. Jodee Helwig had 10 points, Shanna Wojtek had 5, and Kizre Matthews and Krystal Soliz had 2 points each. Turnovers were a key factor that led to the loss.

The Lady Steers traveled to Eldorado last Friday night and brought home a 54-34 victory. The game was close throughout the first half with the Lady Steers up by four at the half 28-24. The Lady Steers defense stifled the Lady Eagles in the second half, allowing only 10 points, as the Lady Steers pulled away for the twenty point win.

Jodee Helwig led all scorers with 28 points and also had 13 rebounds in one of her best efforts of the season. Helwig connected on 13 of 17 from the field and 2 of 4 from the line. Shanna Wojtek had 14 points, hitting on 6 of 12 field goal attempts. Whitney Millican hit on 5 of 7 field goals and finished with 12 points. Kizre Matthews led in the assists department with 8, while Jennifer Alexander and Wojtek had 4 assists each.

The Lady Steers will host Irion County, December 20th to finish their pre-Christmas schedule.

The Lady Steers will be in the Sterling City Tournament (Dec. 27-29) where they will face Klondike in their first game at 9:30 am on Dec. 27. The Lady Steers current record stands at 10-1.

RLJV basketball results

The junior varsity took a win against Coahoma on Tuesday night by a close score of 30-29. Individual scoring is as follows: Kendall and Rodriguez each had 9 followed by Lott with 7. Middleton scored 3 with Honse rounding out the scoring with 2.

Against Eldorado, the junior varsity lost by a score of 40-

34. Individual scoring is as follows: Lott led with 6 followed by Rodriguez and Wallace with 5 each. Kendall and M. Sanchez each had 4 with Fluhmann scoring 3. Middleton had 2 and Soliz added 1.

Lady Steers win Stanton tournament

For the second year in a row, the Lady Steers were able to bring home the championship trophy from the Stanton Hoopstown Tournament by defeating Midland Christian 61-54. Jodee Helwig paced the Lady Steers with 19 points, connecting on 7 of 8 from the line. Whitney Millican helped Helwig out on the inside with 12 points. While Millican scored from the inside, it was Jennifer Alexander, Kizre Matthews, and Shanna Wojtek connecting on 8 of 17 three-pointers to keep pace with the Lady Mustangs. While trailing at the half 22-29, the Lady Steers had an outstanding fourth quarter, outscoring the Lady Mustangs 24-14 in the final stanza. Matthews hit 2 threes for 6 points, Wojtek had 3 threes and finished with 14 points, and Alexander connected for 3 threes, all in the final stanza, to finish with 9 points. Amanda Kuhl rounded out the scoring with 1 point.

In their opening game of the tournament, it was Robert Lee 61 - Kermit 38. Millican had 17, Wojtek 15, Helwig 11, Matthews and Kuhl 8 each, and Bobbie Sparks 2. Kuhl had a team high 7 rebounds to go with her 8 points.

The Lady Steers semi-final game with Wink was a tight game, with the Lady Steers advancing 44-40. It was Helwig leading the way with 21 points, Millican had 10 with 7 rebounds. Matthews had 6 and Wojtek had 7.

Helwig was selected as the tournaments MVP and Millican

and Wojtek were selected to the All-Tournament team. Next action will be at Eldorado on Dec. 14. The Lady Steers will also be in the Sterling City tournament Dec. 27-29, when they face Klondike in the first round Dec. 17 at 9:30 am.

RLJV tournament results

On Dec. 6-8, the Robert Lee JV faced Water Valley for their first game in the Sterling City Tournament and had an easy victory with a 45-24 win. M. Sanchez led the team with 12 points followed by Kendall with 10. Lott did her share with 8 followed by Honse and Middleton with 4 each. Cerritos and Wallace each had 3 and Riley rounded out the scoring with 1.

In the second game it was another victory for the JV with a 45-37 win over Irion County. Kendall led with 12 points followed by Lott with 11 and Middleton close behind with 9. Rodriguez came up with 5 while Wallace and Fluhmann had 3 each. Riley rounded out the scoring with 2.

In the championship game, it was a very close game, but a heartbreaker for Robert Lee as they lost to Coahoma 39-37. Robert Lee JV certainly did us proud by taking 2nd in the Sterling City Tournament. Kendall once again led the scoring with 10, followed by Middleton with 9 and Lott with 8. Fluhmann had 4 while Rodriguez and Sanchez each had 3.

RL class of 2002 bake sale

The Senior class of 2002 will be having a bake sale December 24, at the Robert Lee State Bank starting at 9:00 am.

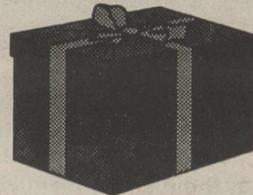


The 2001 Robert Lee High School Band Beau and Sweetheart are Travis Taylor, Sophomore, and Bobbie Sparks, Senior. The couple were honored during Homecoming ceremonies September 28.

"Santeclaus"

A man named William Gilley published an 1821 poem about "Santeclaus" whose sleigh was pulled by one reindeer, Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas" gave Santa eight "tiny reindeer" and named them. The most famous reindeer is the red-nosed Rudolph, who didn't fly into the picture until 1939. Montgomery Ward employee Robert May wrote the poem; the store gave away copies as a holiday souvenir. In the late 1940s, the story was printed

in book form. Composer Johnny Marks wrote a song based on the tale; singing cowboy Gene Autry recorded it. Released in September 1949, the record sold 2 million copies before Christmas.



Glad Tidings



With many good wishes for the Holidays and the coming New Year. We enjoy doing business with you.

Bell Auto Body Shop

453-2640

Doug Bell & Family

Jolly Good wishes to you and yours for a holiday filled with cheer and friendship...and to all our friends & customers

Merry Christmas!



ASKINS PROPANE CO.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Here's wishing you a holiday decorated in love and laughter! Enjoy it all!

Lee Associates
Tom & Elaine Lee



The Spanish Governor's Palace was one of the stops for the Robert Lee High School Spanish Club during their recent trip to San Antonio.



The Robert Lee High School Spanish Club enjoyed the Christmas sights during their recent visit to San Antonio.



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Can you believe
this cowboy is
50?



Happy Birthday
Jerome Hanna!

Love,
Your Family & Friends



As we approach the Holiday Season, let us not forget the Birth of Christ. May peace and goodwill always dwell in your hearts.

*Glenn-Bivins
Insurance*

*Marilyn, Dee Anna,
Lucretia & Mary*

RLHS Spanish Club enjoys trip

RLHS Spanish Club recently enjoyed a trip to San Antonio, Texas. The group loaded up on the charter buses on Saturday morning. One of the first things the group enjoyed was a brief tour and history of the Alamo given by Coach Trey Gardner. While they were at the Alamo some of the group took pictures and got Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s autograph. The group then enjoyed some shopping time at the Rivercenter Mall.

From there the group enjoyed dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe on the Riverwalk and proceeded to the San Antonio Spurs vs. Utah Jazz basketball game. The group enjoyed the Christmas lights along the Riverwalk on Saturday night.

Sunday morning began with a tour of the Spanish Governor's Palace, lunch at Joe's Crab Shack along the Riverwalk, then off to the IMAX Theater to watch The Price of Freedom. After a couple of hours of shopping the group headed home. Everyone is already looking forward to next year's trip. Members of the Spanish Club & sponsors that enjoyed the trip were:

Travis Pitcock, Bret Ballew, Omar Saucedo, Charles Abalos, Nicole Sanchez, Kindra Johnson, Amie Kendall, Alice Beach, Amy Riley, Amanda Kuhl, Cristina Saucedo, Stacey Denton, Alana Parker, Amber Brosh, Travis Taylor, Robert Raney, Adam Cates, R.J. Service, Phillip Arellano, Chris Eubanks, Michele Sanchez, Julie Riley, Lindsey Roe, Brittany Soliz, Veronica Cerritos, Brian Abalos, Sammy Minjarez, David Perez, Phillip Rangel, Tim Messer, Colby Eubanks, Taylor Clendennen, Cole Flanagan, Michael Brickey, Alan Roe, Rachel Wallace, Monica Rodriguez, Shannon Honse, Monica Barrera, Jamie Chesshir, Salomon Saucedo, Cooper Riley, Melissa Landeros, Kelley Long, Amber Perez, Ashlee Millican, Shelby Roe, Krystal Soliz, Christina Middleton, Tyler Lott, Kizre Matthews, Jennifer Alexander, Shanna Wojtek, Jordan Brown, Chase

Roe, Kevin Honse, Becca Saucedo, Briana Longoria, Zachary Sanchez, Robin Sparks, Will Beuschel, Kelly Beuschel, Janet Wallace, Lindsay Wallace, Ray Brown, Sheri Brown, Trey Gardner, Brad Roberts, Ricky Sanchez, Elena Sanchez, Kevin Roe, Tammy Roe, Mark Riley, Cindy Riley, Jeff Eubanks, D'Ann Eubanks, Keith Dillard, Cynthia Dillard, Saul Saucedo, Yolanda Saucedo & Irma Torres.

Legend of Santa Claus

With his red and white Arctic outfit, Santa Claus would be sweltering here in his Mediterranean hometown.

The Santa story evolved from a religious figure, St. Nicholas, who served as bishop in the sunny town of Demre, Turkey, in the 4th century A.D. The tale of his generosity was woven with mythical stories and the jolly gift-bringer known round the world emerged.

The legend has it that one night, St. Nicholas threw a sack of gold through the open window of a poverty-stricken man who could not pay the wedding dowries of his three daughters. The next night, he tossed a second sack.

But on the third night, the window was closed and St. Nicholas climbed onto the roof and dropped the pouch down the chimney, which landed in the girls' stockings drying in the fireplace.

"Hence the tradition of hanging stockings on Christmas Eve, awaiting for a gift from St. Nick," said Geoffrey B. Evans, Chaplain of St. Nicholas' Church in Ankara, the Turkish capital.

The Santa character took on the white beard of the pagan god Odin and Odin's eight-legged flying horse became eight reindeer. The ability to enter houses down the chimney comes from an old Norse legend, and the tradition of leaving him cookies and milk is derived from a medieval German tale.

In the 12th century, French nuns began to give gifts in St. Nicholas' name on his feast day, Dec. 6. St. Nicholas' gift-



Sponsors for the Robert Lee High School Spanish Club trip to San Antonio enjoyed their time with the students.

giving was later blended with the three wise men bearing gifts for the newborn Jesus and associated with Christmas.

"Slowly Saint Nicholas evolved into the omniscient observer of children's behavior," said David L. Brown, a Wisconsin theologian. "Good behavior was rewarded with gifts for Christmas and bad behavior with switches."

Finally, the image of today's Santa is a product of Coca-Cola commercials in the 1930s, said Anne Rudloff Stanton, a medievalist at the University of Missouri.

And Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer, was created for an ad campaign for the Montgomery Ward department store chain.

Hundreds of Greek and Russian Orthodox commemorate St. Nicholas' death every Dec. 6 in the church of St. Nicholas in Demre where he was originally entombed.

"I will tell my friends that he is real," said 10-year-old Klaudina Szupiluk of Poland who attended the services. "I will also tell them that there is no snow here."

A Cowboy's Christmas Prayer

I ain't much good at prayin', and you may not know me, Lord-

I ain't much seen in churches where they preach Thy Holy Word, But You may have observed me out here on the lonely plains.

A-lookin' after cattle, feelin' thankful when it rains, Admirin' Thy great handiwork, the miracle of grass, Aware of Thy kind spirit in the way it comes to pass That hired men on horseback and the livestock that we tend Can look up at the stars at night and know we've got a Friend.

So here's ol' Christmas comin' on, remindin' us again Of Him whose coming brought good will into the hearts of men.

A cowboy ain't no preacher. Lord, but if You'll hear my prayer, I'll ask as good as we have got for all men everywhere. Don't let no hearts be bitter, Lord; don't let no child be cold.

Make easy beds for them that's sick, and them that's weak and old. Let kindness bless the trail we ride, no matter what we're after, And sorter keep us on Your side, in tears as well as laughter.

I've seen old cows a-starvin' and it ain't no happy sight; Please don't leave no one

hungry, Lord, on Thy good Christmas night- No man, no child, no woman, and no critter on four feet- I'll aim to do my best to help You find'em chuck to eat.

I'm just a sinful cowpoke, Lord, -ain't got no business prayin'- But still I hope You'll ketch a word or two of what I'm sayin' We speak of Merry Christmas, Lord-I reckon You'll agree There ain't no Merry Christmas for nobody that ain't free. So one thing more I'll ask You, Lord: just help us what you can

To save some seeds of freedom for the future sons of man!

S. Omar Barker



Seasons Greetings!

We have enjoyed helping area residents achieve their financial goals over the past year. It is a pleasure to be a member of this community! We send wishes for a happy holiday and a healthy, happy New Year to come.

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NEW YEAR From All Of Us At
SUPER H



*Happy Holidays
from Dave & Betty
and all the
employees at
Super H.*

Letter to the Editor,

Dear Mr. Spain,
I have collected *Grandmother Stories from the Heart of Texas* to be published by Eakin Press early next year. As a preview, would appreciate it, if space permits to publish this Christmas Story by Elmer Kelton which is from the Grandmother Stories book. Proceeds from the book will go to the Robert Lee Historical Society and can be ordered pre-publication price of \$19.00 from Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, Texas 78709, telephone: 512-288-1771.

Also, enclosed is another Christmas Story by June McKinley Gulley.

Sincerely,
Jane Austin Bruckner
Christmas on the Jigger Y

"The warmth and sharing of a family love that never had to be put into words glowed as brightly as would the Christmas trees we never had."

Elmer Kelton

We looked forward to Christmas partly because it gave us a wider variety of playmates, cousins we seldom saw. We spent a big percentage of our Christmases at the ranch of our paternal grandparents north of Midland. To us the old couple were always Daddoo and Mammaw. Bill Kelton - Daddoo - spent fifteen years as foreman on the Scharbauer Five Wells Ranch before acquiring a ranch of his own in partnership with Arnold Scharbauer. It was on that ranch, the Hackamore N north

of Midland, that we spent many a happy Christmas.

It was always a great family get-together - uncles, aunts, cousins - in what seemed to me a delightful pioneer setting. At home we had all the modern conveniences - indoor plumbing and electric lights from a thirty-two-volt Delco system. Daddoo and Mammaw still had kerosene lamps, and a trip to the bathroom was a short walk in the backyard to a small wooden structure which at Christmastime was likely to freeze any bared extremities.

The highlight of Christmas at Daddoo and Mammaw's was dinner on Christmas Day. Our grandmother always had turkeys behind net wire which enclosed perhaps an acre north of the house. A grass or weed seedling had no chance; those turkeys kept that ground as slick as a peeled stone. One of them always made the supreme sacrifice at Christmastime as the centerpiece of a well-stocked table. Everybody who came brought cake, pie, fruit salad and the like, so there was never any shortage of good things to eat, only a frustrating limitation on our ability to sample everything. Even Mammaw's red beans were special. During the long years Daddoo had been a ranch foreman, it had been her duty to feed ranchhands from one or two to a dozen or two. Above all else, a ranch cook had to know how to fix red beans.

Heat at Christmastime came from two sources, the cookstove in the narrow kitchen

and a big pot-bellied heater standing in the living room. The old house had a small attic room which Daddoo for some reason called the "chute." At Christmastime we visiting boys slept on pallets in the chute, close to the warm chimney that came up from beneath.

The toys we received were small by today's standards. A dollar bill seemed as big as a saddleblanket in those Depression days and was not lightly spent. But our expectations were not high, either, so we took grand pleasure out of whatever we did receive. Always of a bookish nature myself, I was never in greater glory than when I received a couple of fifteen-cent Big Little Books, especially the movie-story kind that featured stills from a Ken Maynard or Buck Jones Western. I don't think I was ever prouder of any Christmas gift than of a "cowboy suit" when I was seven or eight years old. Mother made me a pair of brown chaps out of some type of oilcloth, which at night with the light behind me might have passed for leather. I probably received a cap pistol to go with it, but it is the chaps I remember. I already had the boots. In fact, I never wore shoes until I was far along in grade school and gradually learned that, away from horse and boots are for vanity and shoes are for feet.

The big fun of Christmas was in playing with cousins George, Daisy and Ruby Gilbert, or aunt Clarabelle Kelton, the baby of her family and

in about the same age bracket as the rest of us. We played hide-and-seek, ring-around-the-rosey and spin-the-bottle. If weather was too bad for us to go outside, and we had plenty of time for a stretched-out game, we played Monopoly. We were never aware that the material side of Christmas might be a little short; nobody in our circle of acquaintances was any better-off.

The greatest gift of that season was enjoyment of family. The warmth and sharing of a family love that never

had to be put into words glowed as brightly as would the Christmas trees we never had.

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*
We're glad to say, now that the season is here, that to know and serve you has been a joy this past year. Have a wonderful day!

COKE COUNTY
AUDITOR'S OFFICE
Stover, Jerita, & Sheryl

Season's Greetings

Happy holidays to all our fine customers. May your home be blessed with all the joys of the season.

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Bill Allen | Lori Eubanks | Wayne McCabe |
| Shelley Allen | Virginia Garlington | Cathy McGinley |
| Kei Antilley | Dee Anna Harmon | Cynthia Metcalf |
| Pansy Bloodworth | Ambrocio Huapilla | Teresa Millican |
| Sheri Brown | Cynthia Hill | Stephen Myers |
| James Clendennen | Valerie Howard | Kaye Pitcock |
| Peggy Davis | Stacy Kelton | Debbie Smith |
| D'Ann Eubanks | | Donna Watkins |
| | | Debbie Wilkes |



ROBERT LEE STATE BANK

Robert Lee, Texas

MEMBER FDIC



by Jan Yanez
Coke County
Ext. Agent

Safety of food sent by mail

During this holiday season, many consumers are concerned about the safety of food items sent by mail. Food packages delivered through mail do have the potential to cause foodborne illness, a disease that affects more than 76 million Americans each year.

Foodborne illness is caused by harmful microorganisms. These microorganisms feed on moist, protein rich food such as meat, poultry, fish, and cheesecake. These microorganisms multiply rapidly at temperatures between 40 degree F and 140 degrees F, otherwise known as the temperature danger zone. Foods should never be kept at these temperatures for more than 2 hours.

Harmful microorganisms generally do not affect the taste, smell, or appearance of food. Usually you will not be able to tell if food has been mishandled or if it could cause foodborne illness. However, there are a few visual signs that can help you better determine if mailed food items are safe to eat.

The following are tips to help you know if your perishable food has been handled properly.

*Make sure the perishable food item, such as meat or poultry, is still cold or frozen and has been packed with a cold source. Your food item should also be packed in a foam container or heavy corrugated cardboard box.

*Observe the postage date. Perishable food should be delivered quickly, ideally overnight. The outer package

of the food should be clearly labeled "Keep Refrigerated."

*Immediately open any package marked "Keep Refrigerated." Check the temperature of the food items. Perishable items should arrive partially frozen with visible ice crystals. These items should still be frozen in the middle. Baked or canned hams and other smoked, cured, or fully cooked perishable items should arrive cold.

*If the perishable food is warm, DO NOT CONSUME OR TASTE THE FOOD. Alert the company immediately if the food is warm.

It is best not to send perishable food items in the mail. Gift food items that do not need refrigeration include canned meats, dry sausages (pepperoni, hard salamis), fruits, crackers, or other dried food items. If you are planning to send mail order food items to family and friends this holiday season, alert them that the gift is in the mail. When possible, provide the anticipated date of delivery.

By preventing the possibility for foodborne illness, food can be the perfect gift.

Keeping food safe during holidays

Food and fellowship is an important part of Christmas and New Year festivities. Holiday events can be pleasant memories with food safety in mind.

Foodborne illness can be an unwanted guest at any holiday event. This illness has symptoms of diarrhea, nausea, fever and vomiting. It is caused by harmful bacteria that grow in moist food, usually protein-based, at temperatures between 40 degrees F

and 140 degrees F.

Food safety is especially important for holiday food events because serving large crowds means handling considerable amounts of food. When cooking for groups, keep in mind how long it will take to prepare the food, available refrigerator storage area to keep food cold and the amount of oven/stove space for cooking and keeping food hot. If serving buffet style, make sure food is not kept at room temperature for more than 2 hours.

Holiday foods include perishable items such as meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, dressing, gravy, dairy-based products, and other dishes on which bacteria feed. To keep harmful bacteria from growing, make sure these foods do not remain in the "danger zone" temperatures of between 40 degrees F and 140 degrees F.

To keep holiday foods safe to eat, keep these recommendations in mind:

*Thaw frozen foods in the refrigerator. Food can be thawed in a microwave if it will be cooked immediately. Do not interrupt cooking and never thaw food on the counter.

*Keep preparation areas and hands clean when preparing food.

*Cook foods to the proper internal temperature. Whole chicken or turkey should be cooked to an internal temperature of 180 degrees F; fresh ham to 160 degrees F, beef, veal or lamb to 170 degrees F for well done; ground meat dishes to 160 degrees F; egg casseroles to 160 degrees F; leftovers to 165 degrees F or boiling hot, and seafood

should become opaque.

*Do not serve any egg dishes that contain undercooked or raw eggs, such as eggnog. Raw eggs may contain the harmful bacteria Salmonella.

*Avoid the transfer of bacteria from raw meats to cooked foods or foods that will be eaten fresh.

*Quickly cool large amounts of food if cooking ahead. Divide food into smaller portions and store below 40 degrees F in shallow containers, less than 3 inches deep. This will help food cool more quickly.

*Serve hot foods hot above 140 degrees F and cold foods cold below 40 degrees F. Hold foods for buffet service for no more than 2 hours.

*Put out small quantities if serving buffet style and replace often. When a dish becomes empty, or nearly empty, replace with a fresh container of food.

*Discard any foods left at room temperature for more than 2 hours. Do not store them for leftovers. Any foods still refrigerated or frozen should be used within recommended storage times.

Fruit Cocktail cake

2 cups flour
1 1/2 cups sugar
2 tsp. soda

Sift together - add juice of 303 can fruit cocktail.

2 eggs - beat & fold into fruit cocktail.

Pour into greased & floured pan.

Sprinkle 1/3 box brown sugar over dough, sprinkle 1 can coconut over sugar & 1 cup pecans over coconut. Press down well with hands. Bake 1 hour at 350.

Icing

1 1/2 sticks oleo
3/4 cup sugar
1 small can milk
vanilla

Mix and boil 2 minutes. Add 1 tsp. vanilla. While cake is warm, spread icing on top.

Orange slice cake

2/3 cup oleo
2 eggs
1 1/2 cups sugar
2 cups flour
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. soda
1 cup hot water
1/2 lb. to 3/4 lb. dates (chopped)

20 orange slices (chopped)
2 cups pecans (chopped)

Dissolve soda in hot water, pour over dates, and cool, mix some of the flour with orange slices.

Mix like you would a regular cake.

Bake at 325 about 1 1/2 hours in a 10 inch tube pan, grease & flour pan.

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
COKE COUNTY TAX OFFICE
 Gayle, Vallery, & Bette



Noel
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Coke County Treasurer's Office
 Phelan Wrinkle

A Holiday Wish to One and All!
 May you enjoy a glad & glorious Yule. Thanks for your valued business.



BEN BESSENT CHEVROLET

Happy Holidays



Wishing all our good friends a holiday filled with love and laughter, mirth and warmth.

Cracker Barrel
 Chris, Katy, Scott, Suzy, and Heidi
 We will be closed Monday & Tuesday, December 24 and 25.

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ASSORTED Morrison Kits ... 3 6 OZ. \$1.00	20 CT./16 OZ. CUPS OR 15 CT./9 IN. PLATES Solo Party Ware ... 2 FOR \$3.00
SHURFINE APPLE, REG. OR LITE CHERRY Pie Filling ... 20-21 OZ. 89¢	CUT RITE Wax Paper ... 75 SQ. FT. \$1.19
SHURFINE Corn Syrup ... 32 OZ. 89¢	REYNOLDS COLORED Plastic Wrap ... 2 100 SQ. FT. \$4.00
WHOLE FANCY Shurfine Yams ... 23 OZ. 79¢	REYNOLDS ECONOMY Aluminum Foil ... 2 75 SQ. FT. \$4.00
WHITE FLAKE Shurfine Coconut ... 14 OZ. 99¢	EARLY CALIFORNIA STUFFED SPANISH OR ASSORTED Pitted Olives ... 6 OZ. 99¢
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Assorted Reese's, Krockel, Camello, Plain, Mr Goodbar, with Almonds, Skor, Rolo, Symphony Milk Choc. or with Almonds, Kit Kat, Whatchamacallit, Twizzler Pull & Peel, Almond Joy, Mounds, York, PayDay, 5th Avenue, Cookies 'n Cream or Heath Hershey Candy Bars ... 3 1 CT. BARS \$1.00	35 MM Fuji Film ... 24 EX. \$3.49
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FINANCIAL FOCUS

With Jim Woodruff of Edward Jones

New IRS rules can help you

It's a good time to own an IRA. Why? Because now you can put more money in and you won't have to take as much out.

Let's look at both sides of the IRA equation, beginning with "put more in."

Starting in 2002, you can contribute up to \$3,000 per year to either your traditional or Roth IRA. This figure will gradually rise to \$5,000 in 2008, after which the ceiling will be indexed for inflation.

The ability to put away more money in your IRA provides you with some significant tax advantages. By contributing to a traditional IRA, you're earning will grow tax-deferred and you may lower your annual taxable income. While you can't make tax-deductible contributions to a Roth IRA, your earnings will grow tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions.

These higher contribution limits can help you build your retirement savings. However, at some point, you'll need to start taking money out of your IRA. You can make penalty-free withdrawals as early as 59 1/2, but, once you do, you'll be taxed at your ordinary income tax rate (assuming you took the withdrawals from a traditional IRA). So, if you don't really need the money, you could incur unnecessary taxes by making these IRA withdrawals, and you may opt to delay them.

You will have to start taking mandatory minimum IRA withdrawals on April 1 of the year after you turn 70-1/2. And now, thanks to some recently enacted IRS rules, the definition of "minimum" has changed, allowing you to take smaller annual distributions.

Under the old guidelines, you had to follow some complicated formulas to calculate minimum withdrawals. And if you picked the wrong method, you could have ended up taking out larger sums than you wanted and facing an inflated tax bill.

But the new withdrawal rules are less complex. And, more importantly, they may allow you to reduce your taxes and preserve a larger percentage of your IRA for your

heirs.

The new guidelines employ the following calculation methods:

Joint life expectancy

If your spouse is more than 10 years younger than you are, you can select a joint life expectancy calculation. Spreading out the life expectancy in this way can result in smaller minimum distributions.

Uniform table

If you don't qualify for your life expectancy calculation, you'll use a uniform table that assumes your beneficiary is 10 years younger than you are. This results in a smaller minimum distribution for married couples who are just a few years apart in age and who name each other as beneficiaries.

Here's another favorable change: Under the new IRS guidelines, beneficiaries who inherit IRAs can take withdrawals based on their life expectancies, which could mean lower taxes along the way. Under the old rules, your children or other beneficiaries generally had to withdraw all the IRA money in a short time period - which could have left them with huge tax bills.

See your tax adviser before taking IRA distributions. Although the rules may have changed in your favor, you still need to make the right moves.

Beating the holiday blues

'Tis it really the season to be jolly? According to mental health experts, you're one of the fortunate ones if it is.

The holidays, in fact, are a time when many people feel lonely and sad instead of warm, fuzzy and joyful.

Those who feel down around the Yuletide season have what is often known as holiday depression - which is a pop culture term rather than a clinical one, according to Dr. Sally Stabb, associate professor of psychology at Texas Woman's University.

The mere expectation that people are supposed to feel blissful around the holidays is a major trigger for the onset of the holiday blues, she said.

"There is a lot of pressure for everyone to get along and to be happy," Stabb said. "This is exacerbated by portrayals of unrealistically happy families, surrounded by wealth and good cheer.

"Realistically, families have all kinds of ongoing conflicts," she said.

Pressure to buy gifts, especially on a limited budget, also can make the holidays a stressful time, Stabb said.

People can feel obligated to buy things they really can't afford. The financial stress may be alleviated by talking to family members before the gift-buying season begins and being honest. Setting a per-gift spending limit, for instance, can be an effective method of spending control, Stabb said.

This year, in the wake of the horrific terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, the holidays may be

especially difficult, Stabb said. Anxieties about traveling are likely to be heightened, as are frustrating, long delays for airport security.

All of these factors can add to the stress many will feel, Stabb said.

Although holiday blues don't always amount to clinical depressions, Stabb said people should seek help from a mental health professional when a depressed feeling lasts for more than a couple of weeks and impairs daily functioning.

Psychotherapy or even medication may be required in more serious cases.

The best prevention, however, is pretty simple: plan ahead, Stabb advises.

"I think it's helpful for people to be aware that these expectations exist," Stabb said. "Anything they can do on the front end would be helpful."

*Make arrangements with family members you'll be spending the holiday with and express any concerns or needs.

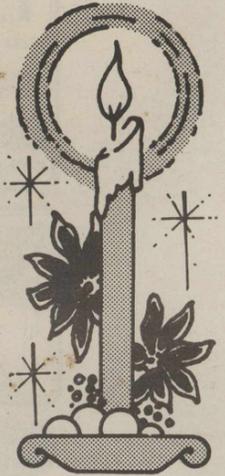
*Get some time alone every day during family gatherings, such as by taking a walk. Regular exercise is always a good depression fighter.

*Holidays can be especially lonely when a person is un-

able to spend it with family. Spend more time with friends and by staying busy - possibly with volunteer work. Or, people can take a vacation they've always wanted to take.

"People can remind themselves that it's a passing event," Stabb said.

Stabb warns against buying into society's false notion that being alone on the holidays makes someone less of a person or a failure. "Just because other people say it, it doesn't mean it's true," she said.



Merry Christmas

from

Alerle Norman Cosmetics

Debbie McCabe

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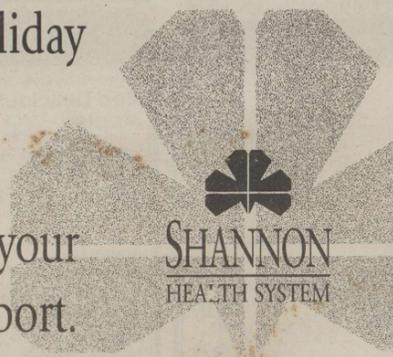
Bronte Family Health Center

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John Green, M. D. • Julie Green, PA-C • Phoebe Heffernan
Sheri Morgan, LVN

Our best wishes for a happy holiday and a healthy new year!

Thank you for your continued support.



Merry Christmas from Cindy's

We wish Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year to our new friends and their families. Thanks for your patronage and friendship. We look forward to serving you in 2002.

Ronnie and Cindy Brown

Season's Greetings



with all good wishes for the New Year

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COUNTRY AGENTS NEWS

By Tommy Antilley
Cooperative Extension Agent

What kind of livestock supplement do we need

As cattle producers, we all have known to use protein supplements to improve performance of cattle grazing drought dormant or frost-killed pastures. Protein supplements, by improving digestibility and forage intake, are efficient in maintaining cattle performance on lower quality pasture.

When pastures become short or the quality is very poor, energy supplementation can complement protein supplementation but the efficiency of response is much lower. Grain and molasses (starch supplements) are most efficient when consumed at less than 0.25% of the animals weight, while the fiber supplements, hulls, wheat midds, etc. appear to be utilized more efficiently than the grains where moderate to large amounts are needed (0.25-0.75 percent of body weight).

Now comes the question of energy supplementation relative to calving. It is better to

feed a thin cow before calving or following calving? Extensive studies have shown that cows need to be in good body condition (scores of 5.5 to 7) to be able to breed back quickly and maintain a good calving record. Cows in poor body condition (3 and 4) are always slow to breed back if at all, will not milk well and have weaker calves with increased health problems. These body condition scores are a visual appraisal of the cow's condition and can be easily determined with a little practice. If you would like assistance in determining your cattle body condition score, I would be glad to assist you.

In dry, low quality conditions like we are in now, it is extremely important to maintain your livestock's condition before they begin to lose weight. Besides hurting your weaning weights on the present calf with lower milking rates, body condition of cattle now can have a tremendous effect on how soon they will

breed back if at all and how large a calf they will wean next year. Your decisions on supplemental feeding this winter can have either positive or devastating effects on your operation for the next 14-18 months. Trying to play catch up after calving or cows begin to lose weight, is next to impossible economically if not biologically. It's like the old commercial, "You can either pay a little now or pay a lot later".

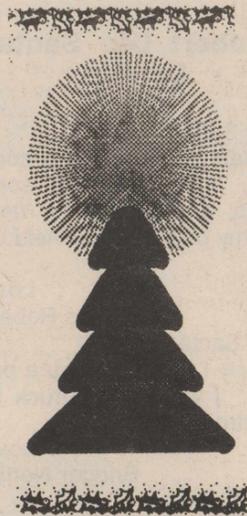
In supplementing your livestock, it is important to remember that protein supplements can be fed only two or three times a week. On the other hand, if energy is the limiting factor, livestock cannot store energy, therefore it must be supplemented every day. Also, if available forage is of poor quality like this year, there is a misconception that cattle will just eat more, but in reality, if quality of grass is poor and low in digestibility, it takes longer for the rumen to digest the forage forcing the animal to actually eat less per day, compounding the problem of low nutrient intake.

When buying supplemental feed, determine the cost by actual pounds of protein and

nutrients found in the feed. Sometimes the so called "bargain cubes" if figured on pounds actual protein are not really a bargain at all. Feeds containing some source of non-nitrogen protein (usually urea) are not totally utilized by the animal. If you are buying feed containing this unnatural protein source and they only utilize about 75-80% of the protein, your 20% feed is only furnishing about 15-16%. To get the needed amounts of protein in the animal you must actually feed more of this type of feed, increasing the cost.

One other item to be considered is the amount of money spent on maintaining your herds. If conditions are bad enough that you are having to supplement nearly the entire supply of nutrients for cattle, don't get caught in the trap of going through the winter and owing the bank for

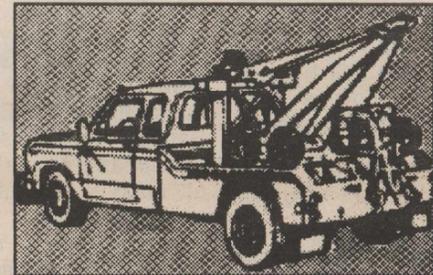
livestock and feed store for feed. There are always some animals that could be culled for some reason, sell these animals and use that money to buy feed for the rest.



Have The Best Christmas On Wheels!

Our thoughts and thanks go with you this season and throughout the year.

THE BEST CONNECTION The Drennans



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Merry Christmas

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Kathy LaFountain, Owner
Joy Parks
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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Oh, The Sounds Of Christmas!

May the blessed voices of song and laughter echo through your hearts as we enter into this noteworthy season. This is a glorious time of year when feelings of brotherhood prevail and the spirit of peace on earth and harmony throughout the land prevails.

With a song in our hearts, we'd like to voice our expressions of good will and gratitude to our many fine customers and friends. Your kind support is always welcome and greatly appreciated.



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To Santa, With Love

Robert Lee Santa Letters Pre-K

Dear Santa,
I want a marble thing, some cars, a car set with some roads, a Lego soccer field, and my own baseball field Legos.

Love,
James Roberts

Dear Santa,
Sorry I didn't get you a present. I want a big truck for Christmas.

Love,
Bridger Netting

Dear Santa,
I want a jack knife, a new bike, a Hot Wheels fire ball set, a Star Wars set, and a new book. I love you.

Love,
Hudson Collier

Dear Santa,
I wish I had a Tonka truck space station game.

Love,
Jaden Aldridge

Dear Santa,
Thank you for giving me toys. For Christmas I would like a magic set.

Love,
Ricky Williams

Kindergarten

Dear Santa Claus
Does Rudolph still have a red nose, and how is Mrs. Claus? Are the elves still busy making toys? Guess what Santa we are leaving peanut butter cookies and milk for you! On Christmas Eve will you please give me a ride in

your sleigh? Santa this year will you please bring me a barbie doll. Thanks Santa you're awesome!

Love,
Morgan Sturgeon

Dear Santa Claus,
How are your reindeer? How is Mrs. Claus? This is my Christmas list. I would like a Barbie, Barbie Car and trampoline. I left cookies and milk on the table.

Your friend,
Alexis Mendoza

Dear Santa,
Tell Rudolph I said Hi. How is Mrs. Claus? Guess what Mom and I are making chocolate chip cookies for you. For Christmas I would like a real paint horse, and a real trailer to put my paint horse in.

Love,
Jayton Torres

Dear Santa,
Is Rudolph ready to fly. Santa, I would like a Barbie. I would also like a gold necklace, and a Barbie house. My family and I want to wish you a Merry Christmas.

Your friend,
Ciera Millican

Dear Santa Claus,
Mom is making you a batch of cookies. Dear Santa Claus please give me a Barbie house and some Barbie cars. Santa, I hope to see you on Christmas Eve. Bring us a lot of snow. Thanks Santa, you're awesome.

Your friend,
Charissa Caston

Hi Santa,
This is Taylor talking from Robert Lee, Tx. I would like a toy race car from you. I hope you like crackers and milk. I also would like to see you and your sleigh. I want my own Playstation 2. I really hope you give me these toys.

I want to see you soon,
Taylor Brackeen

Dear Santa,
How are you doing this year. I am fine and have been a good boy. Can I have a go cart and a play station? Have a safe trip on Christmas Eve.

Your friend,
Eric Wells

Dear Santa Claus,
When you come to my house I will leave you cookies and milk by the fireplace and you will see me by it. The two things that I really want this Christmas is a bicycle and a motorcycle. From Mrs. Claus I would ask a big favor so that I could see all the elfs. How are all of the elf, reindeers and you doing up there.

Thank you for everything,
Kyle Lockhart

Dear Santa Claus,
How are the reindeer doing? This is my Christmas wish list. I would like a baby doll, a bicycle, and a Barbie doll. Thank you Santa for the gifts you have brought me. Could I see the elves? I hope you have a good Christmas!

Thanks,
Cheyenne Ellis

Dear Santa,
I had a birthday yesterday and was 6 years old. I am in kindergarten. For Christmas I would like to have a truck with a remote control. I also want a monster truck. Thank you Santa.

Your friend,
Efrain Olguin

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph, is his nose still red? This year for Christmas I would like a CD player, a nientido 64, and some games to go with it. I will leave chocolate chip cookies and chocolate milk for you. One more thing how is Mrs. Claus? Be safe on your long trip.

Love,
Will Howard

We want to thank all of our customers. Have a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Roy & Judy Blair



To all of our new friends in Bronte and Coke County, We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to all of you for showing us the "Christmas Spirit" year round. You have embraced us with "good ole Texas" hospitality and friendliness. We wish all of you and your families the happiest of holidays and many blessings in the New Year.

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Bob & Annie Gill
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To Santa, With Love

Dear Santa Claus,
How are your reindeer? This is my Christmas list. I would like a What's Her Face Doll. I want a stuffed doll, and a coloring book. Have a happy Christmas.

Thank you,
Shaylee Bell

Hi Santa,
I want to know how old is Rudolph and your other reindeer? I was wondering if I could get some play Raptors and some trees. I also want some play grass for my dinosaurs. Thank you for visiting my house this year. Hope you like the milk and cookies.

Your friend,
Jacob Torres

1st grade - Mrs. Payne
Dear Santa,
You are a friend to me. I want a knife. Dear Santa I wish for a stop watch and more snow.

Love,
Cooper Hinderliter

Dear Santa,
I want like a Barbie house, a Playdoh kitchen maker and a 102 Dalmation movie.

Love,
Makenna Netting

Dear Santa,
I would like a new bike, a toy motorcycle and a horse. Please take good care of your reindeers, and don't let your sleigh brake down.

Love,
Dereck Lockhart

Dear Santa,
I want a toy gun and I want a stuffed animal and a blanket. Dear Santa, I know kids are hard on you.

Love,
Dawson Brisbin

Dear Santa,
I want a bracelet. I want a ring. I want a necklace. I love you.

Love,
Dusty Howard

Dear Santa,
I want a watch. I want a stop watch. I want a toy gun.

Love,
Grady Barnett

Dear Santa,
I want I guess just golf clubs and toy motorcycle and a remote troll boat. I like your elves and stuff and all your reindeer and Rudolph.

Love,
Quinton Coppedge

Dear Santa,
I wish for a bike. I wish for a gun. I wish for a go cart. I wish for a stop watch. How are your elves?

Love,
Vincent Batten

Dear Santa,
I want a stop watch. I want a gun. I want a trampoline.

Love,
Jonah Saucedo

1st grade - Mrs. Duncan
Dear Santa,
I want a baby chou-chou and a little kitten. I also want some toys Santa. I hope you don't drop the toys.

Love,
Jordan Breann Gartman
Dear Santa,
I want a football and a B.B. gun. I would also like a real truck for my mom.

Love,
Kevin Saucedo

Dear Santa,
I wish I could have a rocket power skate park and the movie Monster Incorporated. I love Santa.

Love,
Nathan Taft

Dear Santa,
Could you please bring me some GI Joes and some army men and please can I have a TV. How are you doing?

Love,
Zachary Sanchez

Dear Santa,
I want some dragonball Z toys and some dragonball Z movies. I also want a cool watch. Have a Merry Christmas Santa.

Love,
Justin Gartman

Dear Santa,
Santa I want a Chou-Chou baby and a new bike. This year I want a pound puppy to play with. Merry Christmas Santa.

Love,
Ashlie Wheat

Dear Santa,
This year I want a game boy and a baby doll and a barbie. I think the Grinch is bad.

Love,
Faylin Bell

Dear Santa,
Could you please bring me a game boy. Could you please bring me a dragon ball Z. could you bring me a T.V.

Love,
Laredo Williamson

Dear Santa,
I want a basket ball and a dog. I would like to see your elves. You can come to my house.

Love,
Joshua Barnes

Dear Santa,
Will you bring me a dirt bike please Santa. I also want a T.V. and VCR with a remote. Could you bring me the Jurassic Park 3 movie.

Love,
Zach Skinner

Dear Santa,
I want a gun and I want two little puppies too.

Love,
Randy Barnett

Robert Lee Santa Letters 2nd grade

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a Harry Potter roller coaster toy and a Princess crown toy and a Shrek disc. I hope you have a great holiday.

Love,
Brianna Robles

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a Playstation two and a game cube play station and a compact disk. What are you doing? Please write me back.

Love,
Matthew Corona

Dear Santa Claus,
I have been a good girl this year! If you can please get me a jeep. I love you very much.

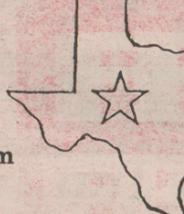
Love,
Beeanca Bower

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a C.D. and a Barbie car and a Rock-a-bye Barbie. Merry Christmas to Mrs. Santa Claus.

Love,
Samantha Fernandez

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

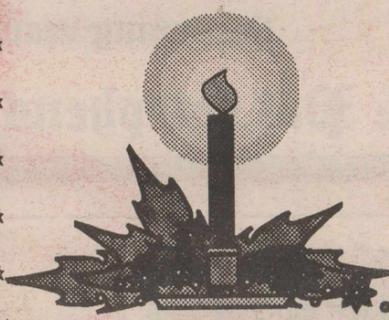


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Happy Holiday

To all our friends
May your Christmas be truly joyous.



Paul & Joan Burns

Feliz Navidad
y
Prospero Año Nuevo



De Parte De
La Familia Barron

Season's Greetings

All the best wishes of the Christmas season to you and your family.

RICK & KAY STYLES

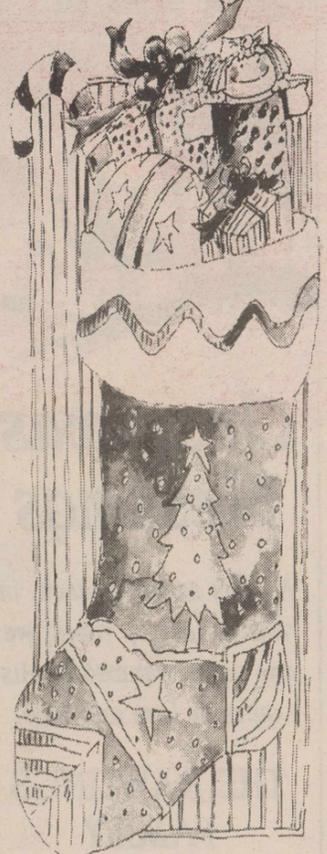



Wishing you a memorable and merry Christmas. Thanks for the opportunity to know and serve you.

COKE COUNTY ABSTRACT COMPANY

Mike, Kathy, April, James, Betty, Millie & Kay

MERRY CHRISTMAS



C & W ONE STOP
Robert Lee

To Santa, With Love

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a G.I. Joe Headquarters, some G.I. Joe vehicles, some G.I. Joe figures and ammo.

Love,
Chad Martin

Dear Santa Claus,
Please give me an easy bake oven and a game called mousetrap.

I love you Santa,
Diana Vera

Dear Santa Claus,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? Can you give me a real puppy and a sugar plum princess and a nitclip.

Love,
Kimberly Roach

Dear Santa Claus,
How many elves do you have? I want a baby brother and a puppy and an easy bake oven.

Love,
Rachel Rojas

Dear Santa Claus,
I want an easy bake oven, baby cat and a hit clips. I like Rudolph the red nose reindeer. Tell Mrs. Claus I said Hi. How is Rudolph? You have many many toys to deliver. Is it hard to deliver toys? I love Christmas Day. Hello Rudolph, how was your day? I like presents. Do you like presents?

Love,
Linsey Arellano

Dear Santa Claus,
How are you doing? I hope Mrs. Claus and you are doing fine. I would like a big big bear and a real puppy and a real computer.

Love,
Luisa Carrera

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a stuffed reindeer with a red nose and a stuffed Santa Claus and a stuffed brown puppy.

Love,
Dylan Van Deventer
3rd grade - Mrs. Askins

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer doing? May I have a hot wheels track, a CD and a football?

Love,
Joshua Rowoldt

Dear Santa,
How is everything in the North Pole? How are the elves and Comet, Bletson, Dasher, Doner, Vecson, Dancer, Prancer and Quepid? If it is not too heavy and too much trouble for you, the deer and the elves, I would like a hot wheels track and cars. I will leave some milk and cookies for you and some water for the reindeer. Hope you get here.

Love,
Robbie Gonzales

Dear Santa,
How is the North Pole? How is Rudolph and your reindeer? My first thing I would like is a X box with games.

My second thing I would like is a cyboard city with slime and cars.

My third thing I would like is a telescope that you can look into outerspace with.

Love,
Joe Estrada

Dear Santa,
Hi, how is Rudolph up in the North Pole? For Christmas I don't know what I want. Just surprise me with whatever you can build for me. All that matters is family, and I wish it would snow very, very much. Have a safe trip.

Love,
Meagan Kristine Ross

Dear Santa,
How is Comet? Is he fine? I hope it snows. These are the things I long for. May I have digimon toys, pokemon toys, and digimon cards?

P.S. Don't forget to bring my baby sister Kaylee something.

Love,
Garrett Rogers

Dear Santa,
Hey Santa, the only thing I want is nail polish. Have a nice trip from the North Pole. I hope Rudolph has a great day. Rudolph is a good reindeer.

Love,
Connie Saucedo

Dear Santa,
I hopw you are doing fine up there and you can fly your sled with Rudolph at the front. Can you bring me an xbox with a lot of games, computer with inter net and games and a go-cart that works? Have a nice trip.

Love,
Diego Moises Saucedo
Balvantin

Dear Santa,
How are you and the reindeer? I hope the elves are doing fine. May I please have a pair of stilts, big black stuffed dog and a pet parrot. I hope you have a safe trip and a Mery Christmas.

Love,
Heidi Austin

Dear Santa,
If it is too much trouble. I would like to have a miniature trampoline for Christmas. I hope you have a safe trip.

Love,
Skyler Rainwater

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph doing up there? I would like a xbox with some games. I would also like a bmx bike. May I please have a remote controlled PT Cruiser?

Love,
Logan Philley

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? I long for a remote control truck, some new video games and the 007 video game.

Love,
Foster Allen

Dear Santa,
This is Clayton Tanner Brickey. I would like to have a Nintendo 64 with 007 Golden Eyoplonse. I would like to have a remote controlled 4x4 Monster truck please. I also would like to have a go-cart please. Thank for all your help. Happy New Years.

Love,
Tanner Brickey

3rd grade - Mrs. Devoll
Dear Santa Claus,
How are the reindeer doing? I am eight years old. I love Christmas. How cold is it up there? Is Rudolph going to lead the sled. I love Rudolph.

If it is not so much trouble could you bring me a X box. I would also like some X box games with it.

I would also like two pairs of football pants and pads.

Love,
Haden Troy Dillard

Dear Santa,
I really don't wish to have very much for Christmas this year. I would like Lego Life on Mars or a treehouse. How are your reindeer doing?

Love,
Cody Taylor



CHRISTMAS Blessings

At this sacred season, in this holiest of times, we are again warmed by His gifts of love and hope.

THE RAWLINGS FAMILY

David, Kary, Rebecca, Philip, & Samuel

May the Good News of the Christmas Season abide with you now and throughout the coming year.

John & Pat Stephens

Sending best wishes to you this Holiday Season

The Country Inn
Beautiful Bronte, Texas

May health, happiness and success be abundantly yours and may good friends always surround you.

WINK INSURANCE
Robert and Marsha Wink

MERRY CHRISTMAS
Wishing all the joys of the season to you & yours this best of all times - Christmas!

W.E.B. CONSTRUCTION
Ed, Wyndell, & Kids

To Santa, With Love

Dear Santa,
I would like a football and a football tee. I would like a football helmet. Thank you for all those things you gave me all those years.

Love,
Troy Young

Dear Santa,
I would like to have a bag of body wash, some lip gloss, and a new pair of glasses and that's all. How are you and Mrs. Claus? I hope you'll be doing good.
Thank you for everything you do.

Love,
Megan Sturgeon

Dear Santa Claus,
I would only like for Christmas is a Barbie phone and perfume. How is Rudolph?

Love,
Ginny Caston

Dear Santa,
If it is not to much trouble may you get these items.

1. A black mountain bike
2. Play station 2
3. A football game for play station 2

How has the weather been? Are the elves working hard? How are the reindeer? Have fun delivering the presents. Have a merry Christmas.

Love,
Travis Sailer

Hi Santa,
I hope Rudolph is ok up at the North Pole. This is what I am wishing for. I would like to have a show horse collection, a big stuffed tiger, and a show horse stable. Have a safe trip!

Love,
Kacey Roberts

Dear Santa,
How are you doing at the North Pole? How is Rudolph and all the other reindeer? Is it cold at the North Pole? These are the things I long for. A pack of nail polish, some lip gloss, some more puppy for my dog so I can keep them. And I wish that it would snow for Christmas.

Love,
Sarah Jo Walker

Dear Santa,
If this is not to much trouble may I have these items.

1. May I have a rambo knife.
2. May I also have a compound bow and arrows.
3. I would like nickle back.

Love,
Jared Long

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a Dragon Ball Z poster all the kinds of posters that are Dragon Ball Z.

I would like more Dragon Ball Z toys.

I would like all the kinds of sheets that are Dragon ball Z kind.

I hope I have a very good Christmas.

Love,
Paul Pineda

Dear Santa,
I would like a big remote control truck.

I would like a football and a football tee.

Thank you for every thing.

Love,
J.P. Conner

Dear Santa Claus,
I have been good this year. I wish for a remote controll red dirt bike, a hot wheels crash master and another snowy day.

Love,
Jake Cotter

Dear Santa Claus,
Santa I do not know what I would like for Christmas. So just bring what ever you want.

All that matters is a happy family.

Love,
Amanda Mendoza

Bronte Santa Letters

Dear Santa,
My name is Emily and I am 2. I want lots of different presents. Not big toys, little girl toys. I want Powerpuff Girls. Can I have cows. Bring me a kitty. Pretty clothes, my favorite color is pink. Madeline wants a teddy. You can bring me a teddy, too. Garrett needs a big teddy. I do need a bicycle. I am a big kid. I will leave you a balloon and marshmallows.

Your friend,
Emily Davidson

Dear Santa,
Bring toys to me and my brothers and sisters. I want some new clothes. I love you! I like the North Pole cause you've brung toys to me.

Love,
Johnathan

Dear Santa,
I want a foot bol that bow sis off the wol. Hou is yor an deer? I want a kotin cade makr.

Love,
Austin

Dear Santa,
I want a prete Brbe Now I wot a hoct on faex gam. My ef or ride. My Santa is hope. My Brda is December 8.

Megan

Dear Santa,
I want a scooter. I want a glow in the dark barbie. My cousin Crystal wants skates. My sister Sara wants a Tigger. My birthday is Aug. 15. I want my mom to get a glow in the dark angel.

Love,
Marisa

Dear Santa,
I want a football suit. I want some toys for my dog. I got a bunch of toys already. I been good. How do you fly? How do you go through the dark.

Love,
Kolby

Dear Santa,
Bring me a skateboard for Christmas. Sara wants a doll. I do not know what my mom wants. Does Rudolph exist?

Love,
Mason

Dear Santa,
I'd like a bike with training wheels. What about my brother? He wants a new quilt. My mom will like a nice pillow. My daddy will like new jeans. Are your reindeers good? I hope so!

Love,
Lauren

Dear Santa,
I want a bow box like the robots that fight on T.V. I also want a bouncy bouncy ball. Stacia my sister, wants a bike and a Shrek game. What does your house look like? How are the reindeer?

Stetsen

Dear Santa,
I want a bicycle. I also want a beanie baby Cheeta. Bring my brother Logan something cool. I have been good this year. Come to my front door cause I don't have a chimney.

Love,
Bailey

Dear Santa,
I love your elves. I want a Rudolph Beanie Bag. I want a ring with diamonds all over the place for my mom. I also want 2 bow and arrows. Santa, I wish that I had a baby brother. I need my age gloves. When Lauren wakes up. I hope her mom has a ring too.

Love,
Taylor

Dear Santa,
I want a scooter and those shoes that have skates in them. I also want a BB gun. I know what else I want. I want some parts for my house. My mom and dad need a new truck too. I just want a computer for Christmas. Then Mario can have one too!

Love,
Bear

Dear Santa,
I want a Time Forest Ranger and a best friend. I also want a bow and arrow. Savannah my sister wants a Barbie and the Nutcracker. Don't your elves make toys? Your deers are cute.

Love,
Fred



Warmest holiday greeting for the best Christmas ever!
Kaye & Gaylon Pitcock
Coke County Commissioner Precinct #3



Happy Holidays

To all our good friends: may you find gifts aplenty this Christmas, filled with love and much happiness.

BAHLMAN JEWELERS
106 South Main
Winters, Texas



Merry Christmas

Best wishes of the season. Have a happy holiday!

County & District Clerk's Office
Mary, Sharon & Carlene

Wishing you joy, peace & love this holiday season.



Dear New & Old Friends,
We're not mailing Christmas greetings this year. Come to Bryan's Barn and see yours in lights.
Wilson Bryan Family

To Santa, With Love

Dear Santa,
I want a Ro Ro Baby. I also want a fairy Barbie. My sister Erika wants the same thing as me. My brother Josh wants something too. Please give me the things I want. I've been good.

Love,
Lindsay

Dear Santa,
How is ur reindeer. Wut is urr hos (house) lik? Du u hav rudoft the red nos ran dir? Does he fly you off? Ty wans a ras cr sit and a lava lam. Breg my sister something.

Love,
Ty

Dear Santa,
I wut a swime Borbe and a swim boy Borbe and a scudr dolo. I wut a radio. I love you Santa.

Love,
Courtney

Dear Santa,
I love Santa! I want a sword, a real knife and a gun. I want my sister to have a doll and a play house. I also want a power ranger sword/gun that changes. I have been good this year.

Love
Jacob

Pre-K and ECH

Dear Santa,
I would like a video game. I want a frog game too. How is your house? I have Christmas decorations at my house.

Love,
Joshua Means

Dear Santa,
I want "Betty Spaghetti" and Jammin lid tool box. I wish I could give you a hug. I love you. My sister Brittany wants a huge bicycle.

Love,
Madison Harris

Dear Santa,
I want a puppy that moves when you turn the button. I want some new balls too. My baby sister Kourtney wants a baby doll.

Merry Christmas,
Kyndall Reynolds

Dear Santa,
I would like a baby doll with curly hair that has a bow in her hair. I would like a red dress and red sandals too. Can my baby doll have a red dress & red sandals too?

I love you,
Jessica Arthur

Dear Santa,
I want a yellow jacket with stripes on it. Can I have a Bronte Longhorn toy? I want a doll that looks just like me.

Merry Christmas,
Dakota Arthur

Dear Santa,
I would like a Power Ranger with two guns. Can I have some spinning tops too? I want some bouncing balls and a robot too.

Merry Christmas,
Carlos Fuentez

Dear Santa,
I would like a stroller for my baby dolls. Can I please have a bike too? I want a strawberry candle too.

Merry Christmas,
Mariah Royall

Dear Santa,
I want a TV for Christmas. I want two toys. Can I please have a book and some balls to play with.

Merry Christmas,
Evan Ferguson

Dear Santa,
I want a Barbie Computer. Can I have a pink Barbie to play with? I want a little Barbie car for her to ride in. I love you Santa.

Merry Christmas,
Savannah Arthur

Dear Santa,
I want a harmonica for Christmas. My big sisters Ali and Madelyn would like a pet shop for Christmas.

Merry Christmas,
Logan Tounget

Dear Santa,
I would like a bear and some of my own toys. Bring me something new and special. Can I have a shot gun when I get older?

Merry Christmas,
Jeffery Brown

Dear Santa,
I would like a new bike and a scooter. My brother Stetson wants a trampoline and a bike too. Can I have a pet too, please.

Merry Christmas,
Stacia Emfinger

Dear Santa,
I would like a guitar and microphone. Can I please have a heart bed too. My big brother needs a microphone and a robot bed.

Merry Christmas,
Kourtney Kelton

Dear Santa,
I love you. I want to help people be safe and healthy. I wish you would bring people presents. And you would help people. I hope you will be safe and at home. I would like a Donald Duck stuffed animal and Mickey Mouse too. I wish I had a toy airplane. My brother needs a Daisy Duck stuffed animal.

Merry Christmas Santa,
Jensen Reed

Dear Santa,
I would like a big car. I would like a big airplane too. I have been a good boy.

Merry Christmas,
Oscar Pena

Dear Santa,
I would like a dirt bike. I also want a fishing pole with hooks. Thats it.

Merry Christmas,
Tucker McMullan

Dear Santa,
I want a big motorcycle with no training wheels. I want a 5 wheeler with no training wheels. Thank you. I want to see Rudolf playing in the air. I love you.

Dakota Kelly

Dear Santa,
I want two big yellow cars and a truck. I have been a good boy. I will leave you milk and cookies. I would like a 3 wheeler, too.

Tristan Moore

Dear Santa,
I want a real Barbie. Can I please have a wedding dress with flowers: I aslo want a Barbie set with a swimming pool.

Merry Christmas,
Crystal Bilbrey

Dear Santa,
I want a football, and a basketball. Can I have a cookie too. I want a football suit & helmet, please.

Merry Christmas,
Jaimie Padilla

Dear Santa,
I would like a dog and a dinosaur. Can I have a Power Ranger too? I want a motorcycle, please.

Merry Christmas,
Heriberta Cecilia

Dear Santa,
I would like a real cat. I would like for my cat to be orange and white. I would like a real dog too. Can the dog be brown? I would like a computer please. I would like a pig too, but it can be a stuffed pig.

Merry Christmas,
Kristen Price

Dear Santa,
I want a water gun and another gun that shoots fake bullets. I want a flag that I can wear on my pants. I want some playing cards that I could play games with and a real football and some cars. I would like some Power Ranger shoes, shirt and pants. I will leave you some milk, cookies and eggs. I love you.

Joshua Puentez

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl this year. I hope you will bring me some Christmas toys.

I love you,
Meghan Bohannon

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl. Can you please bring me some special Christmas toys.

I love you,
Ariel Tabor

Dear Santa,
We wanted to let you know. We think our students are good as gold.

Each one is so special in their own way. Please help make Christmas a Special day.

Bring them & their families peace, love & joy and please bring them some Christmas toys.

Love,
Suzanne Young
Alisa Webb

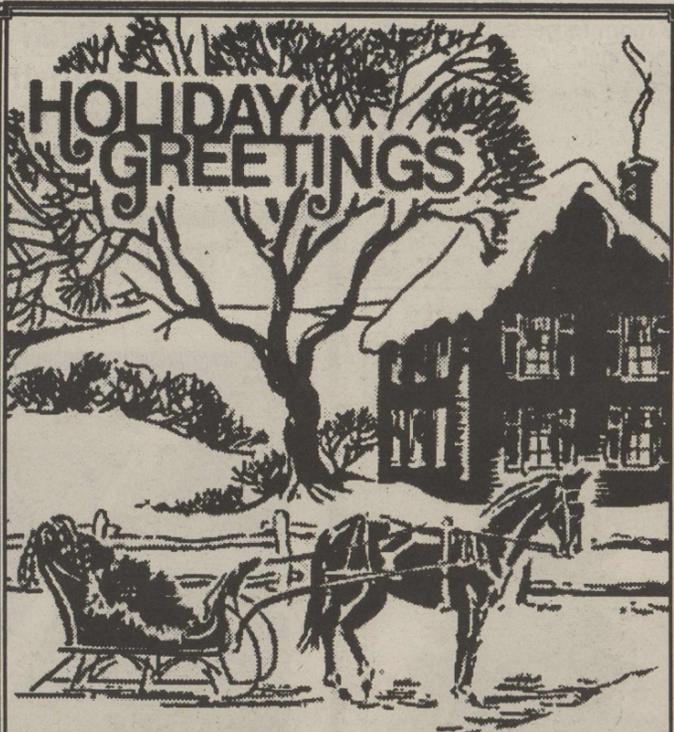
Bronte santa letters 1st grade

Dear Santa,
Hi! How are doing? How is Rudolf? I moovd to Bronte last year. Please bring me a robo baby pachy, and eiring. I'll leave your cookies and milk on the taeb!

Your pal,
Brooke Budford

Dear Santa,
Hi! How are you doing this year? It snod in Bront. Please bring me a DvD player and a NB3 player and a bike. I will leave you som cookies.

Your pal,
Thoren Charles



HOLIDAY GREETINGS

We're delighted to have you as our customers. May your holidays be filled with all the Season's joys.

KEY FEED STORE

A Division of
**EZELL-KEY
GRAIN COMPANY**



We will be closed at noon on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day & New Year's Day.

WINK INSURANCE AGENCY

Home • Auto
Life • Commercial

715 Austin • 453-4551



Blessings

...for a holiday season filled with happiness and good cheer!

**SKINNER'S
Grocery & Station**
Jim & Geanette Skinner

To Santa, With Love

Dear Santa,
How are you? I am lering to read. Please bring me a bike, paints, and a rat. Make sure your coat stays butened.
Your pal,
Carson James
2nd grade

Dear Santa,
I want a dress. Can Mrs santa, by me it plecte right now? Mr. Santa I want a puppy tree right now and a cat?
Love my friend
Ashley K. Reyes

Dear Santa,
I won't a puppy and a kittie. I won't fansie close for Kin. I won't my candy. I won't a rele tree. I won't my two frunt teeth.
Your friend
Madison Price

Dear Santa,
I want a doll that talk, and a bike, and a horse, and a christmas tree, and a cat, and a baby dog, and a toy dall that walk.
Your pal,
Leticia Pena, 2nd grade

Dear Santa,
I want Harses with Sadls and rands and ples chran her. A pano. A dog and a cat.
you'er frend
Rani Parks

Dear Santa,
I want a little dirtbike like Creed's and a four willer. And a three willer. I want a monster. I want a toy armyman. and a plastachin. dose rootof still have his shain nois. are you and Mrs. Claus doing good.
froe ryan nealey
your frind

Dear Santa,
I want a horse and a dog and a swetr a teletube new toy car. I want a toy baby a soccerball plastashin2 and animal cat.
kaitlin moore 2nd grade

Dear Santa,
I want a playstashon 2 and a stuffed animal. dragon. and new rolerblads and skatbored. and a new soccerball.
Dustin minjarez 2nd grade

Dear Santa,
I want a Saonec selb and Saonec 2 gdeac foy my Sert a ball
jonathan reyes

Dear Santa,
I want a army knife, skates, snow board, HarryPotter game, Croc2, surff board. I will leave you milk and cookies.
Jordan Rowan

Dear Santa,
I hope I get toys. Do you want me to tell you? I want a Harry potter play stashen, and a toy's r es gift card, the little vanpire movie, gex 3, a new cristmas tree, abig play castle,
jaylon Seales

Dear Santa,
I wish I pokmons.
by vaughn stilley
2nd grade

Dear Santa,
I want no barbeys. I want a big CD player. I want a baby that don't talk. I want mony. I want candy. I want a disco ball. Can I have a rill cat and dog? I want gorey.
Harley Wallace

Dear Santa,
I want for christmas is a foot ball and a paint ball-gun and pool tabl.
Love,
Creed Coalson

Dear Santa,
I wat a inrg pant ball gun and a skouter too. buch of guns.
frum randon eubanks

Dear Santa,
I want a Breie heime a Breie and a game it cod Rogras a cas to put my game a Breie hores Breie man.
I love Santa,
maria fuentez

Dear Santa,
I will like a computer and a bick and a football and a pant set.
your frend,
Amy Godinez

Dear Santa,
I want a 22-250 for Christ- mas. I want a nintindo 64 for Christmas. I want a dirt bick and a therdot 6.
love
Beau Grigg

Dear Santa,
I would like to have a moter- scooter. A game boy coler. some scats a watergun Some candy A motersicll. A snak. Some soos. A gun a car adog a go cart.
brent kelly
your pal

Dear Santa,
I would like to have a game any game you can make. I would like to see Roodof but I am all wase asleep. I wont to see you and the ather Rain deer.
your buddy
Mackenzie Gibbs

Dear Santa,
I want a puppie, farrot, para- keet, a baby sister, a kitten, a door bell, a TV, thats all
Katie Austin
2nd grade

Dear Santa,
I been a good boy. Ken I have a drit bike. And a moter- cikle. And a turck in a big priset. Gun. Santa ples get me a gun case. and one more thing and a palysashin.
bringing woodoff to
your friend
Conner Clark

Dear Santa,
I want a BB gun, and a drum set, a dirt bike, an a sling shot, a rattlesnake belt. I want to tell Mr. Claus to have a Merry Christmas! I've been good!
Mason Braswell
2nd grade

Dear Santa,
I wish I had a robot terdl
by logan mcglathlin
2nd grade

Dear Santa;
I want a coke coala bear. A coke coala lamp. and a disco ball. How is rodph. Tell rodph hi! and all the rander.
Kimberly Lee

Dear Santa,
I was thiking about crismas. For crismas I want a snake, a cnday cane, rampage for nin- tendoe 64
by Austin Mertz

Dear St. Nick,
Santa bring my baby back to me! P.S. It's 62 & sunny.
Best wishes,
Millicent M. Morgenstern
Tennyson, Tex.

Christmas is really God's pattern for living. To be followed all year by unselfish giving - For in giving to others and in being kind We may discover true peace of mind - And peace on earth will come to stay. When we all live Christmas every day.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Judge Walker

Give a gift that will be remembered all year long!!!



Give a gift subscription of The Observer/Enterprise to your family and friends. The recipient will receive a gift card announcing you as the giver.

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE
Serving Coke County

Robert Lee
453-2433

*Silent Night
Holy Night*



May the wonder of His love inspire you anew. Rejoice.

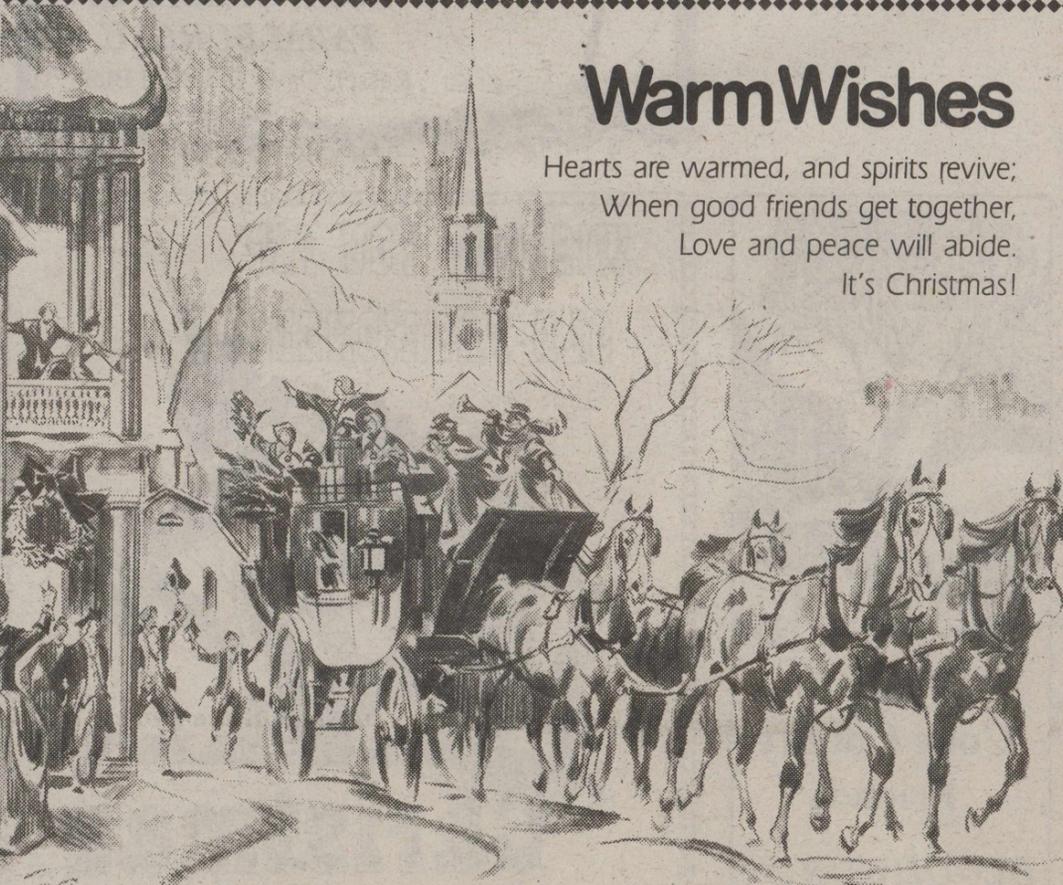
Joan Davis

Wishing everyone a
Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year
O. B. Jacobs



Warm Wishes

Hearts are warmed, and spirits revive;
When good friends get together,
Love and peace will abide.
It's Christmas!

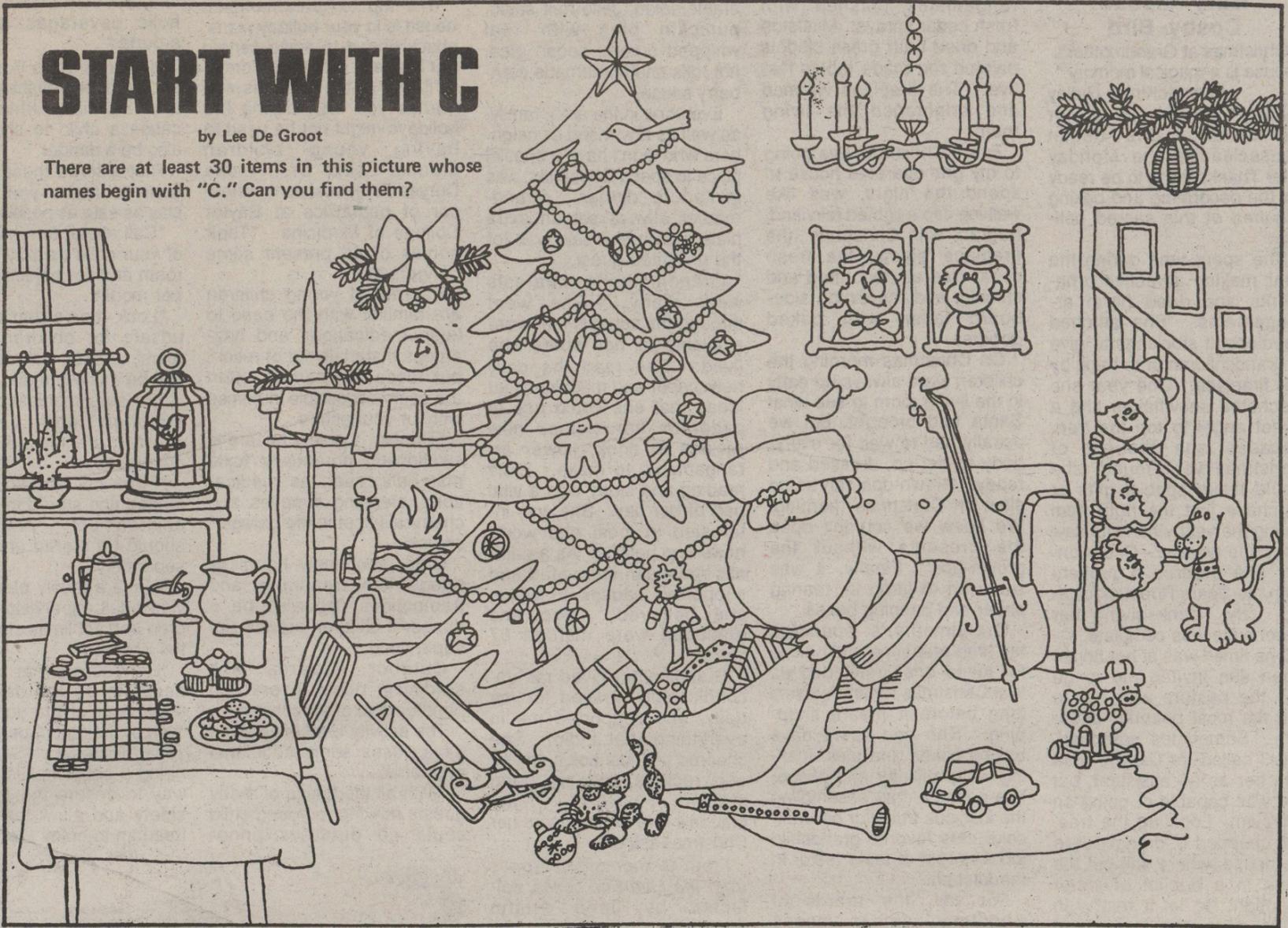


SHAFFER FUNERAL HOME & MONUMENT CO.

START WITH C

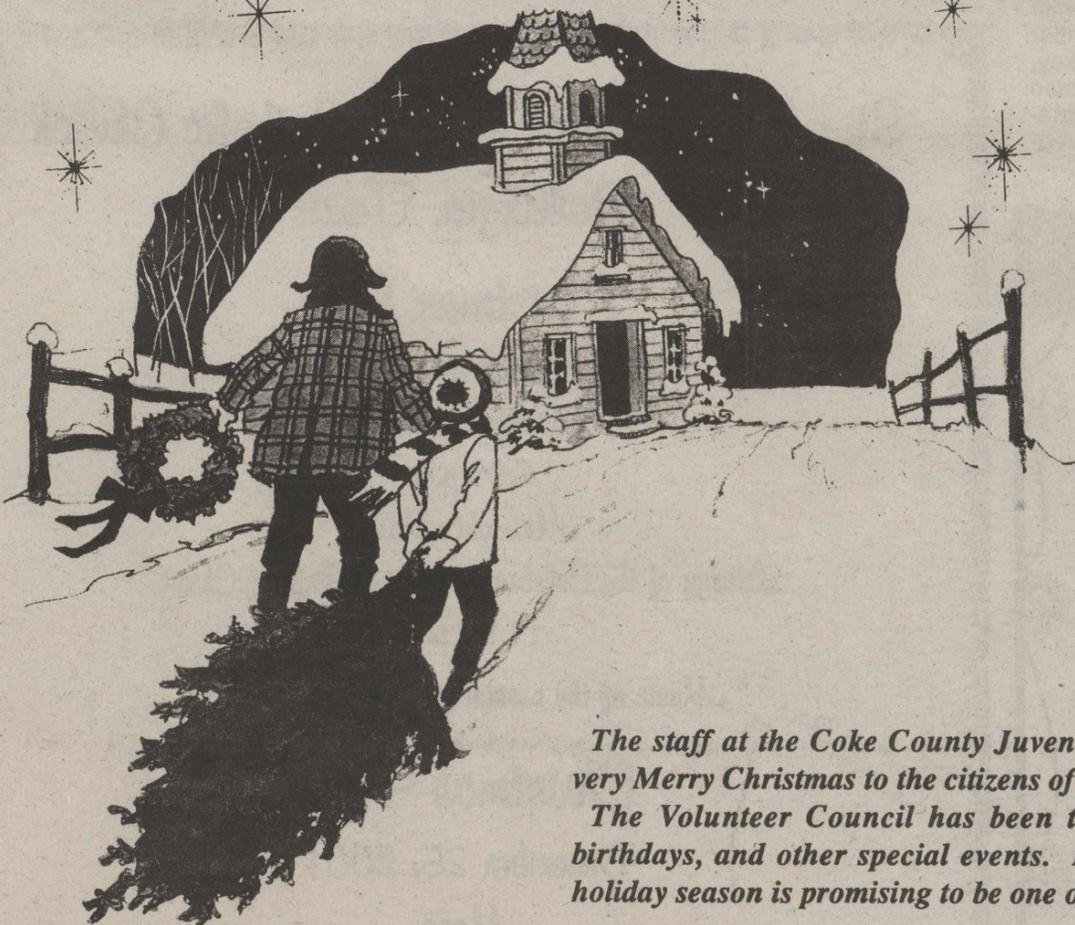
by Lee De Groot

There are at least 30 items in this picture whose names begin with "C." Can you find them?



MERRY CHRISTMAS And A Happy and Prosperous NEW YEAR From All Of Us At

The
Coke County Juvenile
Justice Center
Wackenhut Family



The staff at the Coke County Juvenile Justice Center would like to wish a very Merry Christmas to the citizens of Coke County.

The Volunteer Council has been tremendous in planning for holidays, birthdays, and other special events. Due to the efforts of these people, this holiday season is promising to be one of encouragement and joy at CCJJC.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

**Mary Maude
Cosby Bird**

"Christmas at Grandmother's house is a magical memory."

June McKinley Gulley

Mary Maude lived for Christmas. She began housecleaning the Monday after Thanksgiving to be ready for the decorating and baking required of this sacred holiday.

She spent time during the year making attractive ornaments and dried floral arrangements. She stitched needlepoint stockings to give to grandchildren or to hang by her fireplace. One year she crocheted snowflakes and a sweet angel to top the tree. Because she thought of Christmas year round, she would make special gifts or purchase just the right item during the year when she saw what she wanted. Occasionally she ordered a present from the Sears Roebuck catalog. By Thanksgiving her storehouse was complete.

One time I was at her house when she invited me to go into the pasture with her to find the most beautiful cedar tree. Sometimes granddad, who I called Ira Daddy, went with her as an assistant, but she was capable of going on her own. Locating the tree, she chopped it, dragged it to the house, where she put the trunk in a bucket of water overnight "to let it rest". In those days, the tree stand contained a bucket so the tree could stand in water to preserve it.

The next day she put the tree into the stand, secured it and added water to the container before draping the embroidered red felt skirt at the tree base. She brought out the ornament boxes, removing the old and exquisite ornaments. Some were handmade, others were collected on trips or received as gifts. Seeing these ornaments each year was like seeing old friends again. The icicles made the multicolored lights sparkle.

She decorated her whole house. The mantel was laden with cedar and red candles and ornaments. Dried floral ar-

rangements finished with fresh cedar sprays. Mistletoe and dried bear grass blooms painted red made tables festive. The fireplace warmed and brightened the living room.

Every Christmas Eve going to my grandparents house to spend the night, was like walking into a lighted fairyland, fragrant with Christmas...the fireplace aglow, the fresh cedar tree all decorated and shining, and the dining sideboard laden with baked goodies.

On Christmas morning the children were always up early in the living room to see what Santa had brought, but we usually had to wait for everybody to get up, dressed and ready. Grown-ups can be so slow on Christmas morning! We knew we couldn't open the presents without the grown-ups. Finally, it was such fun to jump in, tearing paper and opening boxes.

Grandmother's spending her time preparing and baking for loved ones reminded us that Christmas meant feasting long before it meant shopping. She had spent days baking cakes and pies, making white divinity and chocolate pecan fudge, assembling the luscious fruits for her fruitcake. My favorite grandchild job was that of taste tester in the kitchen.

For me, the aroma of Christmas dinner means baked turkey and cornbread sage dressing. Ah, her dressing was deliciously flavored and textured. The cornbread and biscuits were baked ahead for the dressing. As I grew older, I began to watch her put it together and she shared with me her thoughts on what made it taste like it did. In these years since my Grandmother has been gone, I try every year to duplicate that Christmas dressing. I can get close - very close.

The large table, covered in snowy white linen, set with family china, groaned under the bounty of, baked turkey, dressing, giblet gravy, green beans with small white potatoes, sweet potatoes, veg-

etable salad, Jello fruit salad, pumpkin pies with real whipped cream, pecan pies, hot rolls and homemade cranberry sauce.

Everyone in the area, family, as well as any friend or neighbors who didn't have a special place to spend Christmas, was invited to dinner. Grandmother always set an extra plate, which she said was for the uninvited guest.

Grandmother's interests were many. She went through the schools that were available to her where she lived. She read the daily newspaper and magazines for ideas that she could use to decorate her home, new recipes to cook, flower arrangements to make. Bible reading and study was a vital part of her day. She was interested in local and world news and politics. As a patriotic American she voted and supported causes in which she believed. She and granddad were married 67 years.

Grandmother loved me unconditionally, prayed for me daily, and supported me in everything that I did. She cheered my flute solos, my piano recitals and my good grades. I basked in Mary Maude's love and treasure her Christmas spirit.

From *Grandmother Stories from the Heart of Texas*, collected by Jane Austin Bruckner to be published by Eakin Press, PO Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709, 1-800-880-8642. Prepublication price, postage paid, \$19.00 when received before December 30.



**Holiday travels
require childproofing**

If a trip to grandmother's house is in your holiday plans, check ahead to make certain her house is safe for children.

"Some of the relatives and friends you visit during the holidays might not be used to having young children around," said Dr. Teresa Duryea Rice, assistant professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. "Their homes could present some dangers."

Parents of young children are familiar with the need to keep medications and hazardous materials out of reach, but these substances often are easily accessible in homes without youngsters.

"The No. 1 safety hazard is swallowing potentially toxic materials, such as medications; cleaning supplies and chemicals kept in the garage," she said.

Other seemingly harmless things like treadmills and trampolines can also be a danger if children are left unsupervised.

Outdoor hazards like swimming pools, rivers and ponds are another concern.

The activity level of the holidays poses some additional problems.

"With all the bustle of many guests arriving, a young child could go outdoors unno-

ted," Rice said. "And there are children who accidentally or purposely consume alcoholic beverages left lying around."

Holiday staples like candles and tempting dishes of nuts and candies, which could cause a child to choke, can also be a danger.

Rice offered these suggestions to make your holiday stay as safe as possible:

*Call ahead to remind hosts of your child's ability to climb, roam and put objects in his or her mouth.

*Lock rooms that might be unsafe for children or that might contain valuables that can be easily broken.

*Be sure medications, prescription and over the counter, are placed in a secure location.

*Firearms should be unloaded and stored in a locked environment. Ammunition should be stored and locked separately.

*Make a family plan to provide adult supervision of children and set limits clearly with the children.

"Don't forget that someone needs to be the designated supervisor of the young children or they must be in a safe zone," Rice said. "Sometimes hiring a babysitter is the best way to ensure the children's safety and allow the parents freedom to enjoy the holiday."



Happy Holiday

Warmest Thanks for your patronage. To all, we wish a joyous Holiday Season. We look forward to serving you in the new year!

CARWILE INSURANCE

Bill & Pat Carwile

**St. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church
Ballinger, Texas**

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2001

Children's Liturgy

5:00 p.m.

Midnight Mass

Liturgy of the Celebration of the Birth of Christ

11:30 p.m.

Music of the season followed by Mass

Christmas Day

December 25, 2001

Mass

8:45 a.m.

**Findings Of
Comfort And Joy**

Merry Christmas and happy holidays from the whole flock!

**BRONTE HEALTH
& REHAB CENTER**

Board of Directors, Residents & Staff

Shedding light on electric competition

by Carol Biedrzycki
The electric power industry wants Texas consumers to believe that when deregulation goes into effect in January, the newly competitive market will provide lower prices and better service to customers. Let's hope they're right.

Although the law provides a rate discount and energy efficiency programs for some low-income consumers, there is reason to believe that deregulation will do more harm than good.

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) has failed to properly alert consumers to the shortcomings of retail electrical competition. The shortcomings could cancel out any potential benefit and leave many consumers powerless in more ways than one.

One of the biggest differences under deregulation - and one likely to have the most severe impact on low-income households - will be the procedures for disconnection of electrical services.

Starting in January, electric companies that want to disconnect a consumer for non-payment will be allowed to send the consumer to another electric company called the provider of last resort (POLR). While this may sound good on the surface, POLR rates will be 20 to 30 percent higher than rates paid by other customers.

If you can't pay the POLR, your electricity will be disconnected just as it is today. However, the POLR will be able to charge for routine services, such as application fees and payment reminder notices. As a result, disconnection and reconnection will be

more expensive than ever. In addition, the POLR may require high security deposits or advance payment.

The POLR rates were set in contracts secretly negotiated at the PUC with no participation by residential consumers. For months, advocates of low-income consumers have raised concerns with the Public Utility Commission about sending customers that already experience difficulties paying their bills to the high cost POLR.

The commission has taken no action but has agreed to "study" the problems sometime next year. Next year is too late. By February residential consumers late in paying their January bills will begin to be caught off-guard.

Unsuspecting consumers will be stranded owing large sums to the POLR and their electric company at the same time. How much sense does it make to charge the elderly, disabled, and working poor families more for electricity while they are struggling to pay their current bills?

The POLR contracts are a mistake that can be fixed. The PUC can put in consumer safeguards to protect the public against excessive fees and costs. As a first step, the ability to turn on and off electric services should not be placed solely in the hands of a separate company that can negotiate fees and rates behind closed doors.

Texas stands alone in allowing its senior citizens and low-income working families to be victimized by a high-priced POLR system. The PUC should keep it simple and continue the disconnection process now in place. That's a solution adopted by other

states that have deregulated electrical power.

Until the market opens to competition, we don't know whether deregulation will reduce costs and improve services. But we already know that the future looks bleak for consumers stuck with the POLR. POLR service is supposed to be a safety net to ensure that all consumers have access to electrical services not a debt trap for low and fixed income households. Until the Public Utility Commission can ensure the service will help rather than harm consumers, it should pull the plug on the POLR contracts.

Biedrzycki is executive director of Texas Ratepayers' Organization to Save Energy (Texas ROSE), a statewide membership organization that promotes programs to help low-income families reduce electric bills through energy conservation.

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Economics, too

Gold and frankincense and myrrh...
What did they mean to him and her,
The two entrusted with the feeding and the care
Of this child, this strange and even frightening child...
What to the poor and harassed pair,
Humble, guileless and mild?

Who'd pay the inns, meet the demands
For living in the foreign lands?
(Who'd buy the shop that yet must pay
Their living, years until the day,
Hence thirty years, when He
Would out to His ministry?)

Those who came with faces strange
Into any land's exchange...
Those of other city, race
In any shop or market place
With gold could buy in any town,
Or lay a vial of real myrrh
Down...
Frankincense would buy them meat

On any street.
Joseph standing by that night
While shepherds marveled at the sight -
The star - heard the song
That to the ages would belong...
Joseph wondered, where he stood,
How to FEED the little brood
Driven from home and means of gain,
Shelter from the cold and rain.
Not many men in such a plight
Would have a caravan come the night
His son was born, such that brings
Endowment from the eastern kings.

Ulmer Bird
Christmas Blessings,
Josephine

Note: Ulmer Bird, late author, publisher, historian and poet, wrote this offering years ago. His wife, Josephine, uses some of his work each year for her greetings.



Wishing Everyone
HAPPY & HEALTHY HOLIDAYS
Jimmy, Staci, Jimmy Lynn
& Ashley Womack

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Kenneth & Nancy Rasco

SEASON'S BEST

Like the Wise Men of old, let us worship the newborn Prince of Peace - may He bless you and yours.

Ernest Clendennen, Inc.
Vacuum Truck Service/Storage Rental & Sales
Ernest Clendennen
Allen & Carole Clendennen
Jim & Becky Clendennen



Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
Robert Lee, Texas
and
St. James Catholic Church
Bronte, Texas

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22nd, 2001
6:00 pm
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Robert Lee

December 23rd, 2001 • 5:00 pm
St. James, Bronte

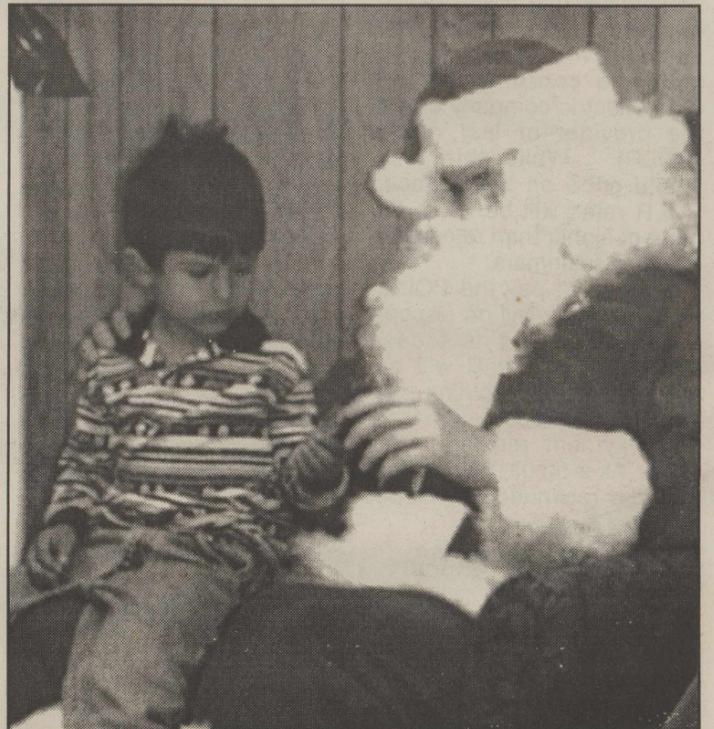
Christmas Eve
December 24th, 2001
Celebration of the Birth of Christ
7:00 pm
at St. James, Bronte



D

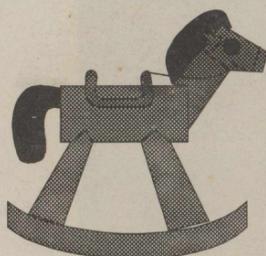


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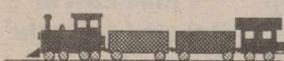
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**BUY IT.
SELL IT.
FIND IT.**

CLASSIFIED.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES

Classified Advertising must be paid in advance.

1st. Insertion...
20¢ Per Word (\$3.00 Minimum)
2nd and Subsequent Insertions...
16¢ Per Word (\$2.50 Minimum)

Additional 50¢ charged for Blind Ads

Legal Notices...
25¢ Per Word

ADVERTISING DEADLINE
Tuesdays at 5 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

REMODELING NOW! Lease/buy option. Near Robert Lee High. Call 655-9141.

18-tnc

FOR SALE

1997 Ford pickup. 2000 Intrigue. Both in great condition. For more information call 453-2203.

22-2tp

FOR SALE

House for rent or sale. 1214 Chadbourne, Robert Lee. Small 3 BR, 1 Bth. home. Contact Kathy at 915-282-2520.

19-4tp

WCCD'S

Community Cookbook "Sharing Our Best", \$10.95. A great gift or one for yourself! See Joan Davis, Coke County courthouse.

18-6tc

Bronte
3 BR, 1 bth, corner lot. Low 20's.

Robert Lee
2 or 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bth, CA/CH, over 2100 sq. ft., enclosed garage, 2 carports, workshop, can be sold furnished.

4 BR, 2 bth, large den with second living area. CA/CH over 2100 sq. ft. Priced to sell.

3 BR, 2 bth, CA/CH, fireplace on one acre overlooking Lake Spence.

2 or 3 BR, 1 bth, sunken living room, CA/CH.

2 BR, 1 bth, CA/CH, sun-room or 3rd BR, large kitchen, single garage, over 1800 sq. ft.

2 BR, 2 bth, CA/CH on hilltop with two acres with mountainous views.

Edge of town, 2 BR, 2 bth, CA/CH brick home.

Seller will pay buyers closing cost on this 3 BR, 2 bth with good storm cellar, priced at \$21,900.

2350+/- AC. with older ranch house and pens. Rolling hills with creek. Will divide. Great Deer, Turkey, Quail and Dove hunting.

1220+/- AC. rolling to mountainous area. Utilities. Will divide. Great Deer, Turkey, Quail & Dove Hunting.

448+/- AC. electricity, good water and excellent hunting.

320+/- AC., 5 BR rock house. Scenic mountain views. Good hunting.

320+/- AC. highway and county road access. Choice building sight. Convenient to Bronte. Seller will divide.

244+/- AC. on Yellow Wolf Creek, nice mobile home, good hunting.

159 AC., near Bronte, 2 BR, 2 bth home. Fireplace, 18 pecan trees, 1 large hay barn.

Other Listings Available.

ASH-MILICAN-CARSON REAL ESTATE
453-5144 OFFICE

www.amcwesttexasranches.com
JOE ASH 473-0164 MOBILE MARSHALL MILICAN 473-0437 MOBILE
453-2554 HOME 453-9002 HOME

BIG SCREEN

TV for sale. Take on small payments. Good credit required. 1-800-398-3970.

22-2tp

GUNS FOR SALE

Like new Winchester deluxe bolt action 7MM magnum w/Harris bipod and Burris 3x9 scope, box ammo, \$400.00. S&W semi auto pistol 45 caliber 5906 w/5 box ammo, \$350.00. Call 453-9416.

22-2tp

BRICK HOME!

3 Bedrooms 2 baths! Formal Dining & Living Rooms! New berber carpet Den with Fireplace!

APPROX 7 ACRES!

4 Bedrooms 2.5 baths! 1 Living Areas with 2 Fireplaces! Hardwood Floors! Barn w/corrals!

HUGE PECAN TREES Surrounding this 3 Bedroom Home updated with carpet and paint! Central Heat & Air! Horse pens! 30's!

COUNTRY PORCH

Across this 3 Bedroom Home Large trees & Acreage! Cabinets in Living Area! Bay windows & Garden tub!

GREEN MOUNTAIN 160 Acres Rugged, Rough Country!

MOUNTAIN VIEWS 600+ Acres Remote & Excellent Hunting!

Concho Realty
Becky Clendennen
Office - 653-4535
Home - 453-4748
1-800-530-4242



FOR SALE
1985 Mercury Cougar new motor & new transmission. Call 453-2408.

22-1tc

HOUSE FOR SALE or rent. Brick, 3 bedroom, 1 bath. 1001 Chadbourne, Robert Lee. 915-354-2274.

22-tnc

BIG SCREEN TV for sale. Take on small payments. Good credit required. 1-800-398-3970.

22-2tp

FOR RENT

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

29a-EOW

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

03b-tnc

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
44a-51tp

MISCELLANEOUS

We will be selling **Holiday Fireworks** December 20 through **Midnight New Year's!** We are located **1 mile East of Robert Lee on the Bronte Highway.**

PROFESSIONAL DOG grooming. Call Susan 473-2515.

50b-tnc

COMPUTERS

Complete systems, repairs upgrades, internet. Call Ed @ EMCO Computers. 473-3004.

32b-tnc

THE "BARBER" SHOP Debora England, 223 N. Lombard, Bronte. 473-4026. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9 am-6 pm.

17b-tnc



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

37a-tnc

D & L DOZER SERVICE & CUSTOM FARMING Larry Spivey, owner-operator. PO Box 160, Bronte, Texas. Phone (915) 282-3038

45b-tnc

ANNIE G'S ARTISAN CRAFTS gifts, art, antiques, kites and t-shirts. 119 West Main, Bronte. 473-2324.

05b-tnc

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

34b-tnc

MAIN STREET HAIR SALON 121 W. Main, Bronte. 473-3202. Open Mon. - Fri., 8-5. Early & late appointments. Saturday by appointment.

19-tnc

WANT TO BUY Blacksmith tools - anvils, forges, power hammers, etc. 915-677-7105.

21-4tp

HELP WANTED

IMMEDIATE OPENING for full time LVN. 6A - 6P. Contact Sarah Lee at Senior Citizens Nursing Home in Winters. 754-4566.

50B-tnc

PART-TIME JANITOR Part-time janitor needed, variable hours. Apply in person or contact John Barnett, Supv., 473-3621. Bronte Health & Rehab Center, 900 S. State Street, Bronte, TX 76933. EOE.

21-2tc

PROVIDERS NEEDED in this and surrounding areas. Immediate opening for person(s) who enjoy working with the elderly and possess a caring and flexible attitude. Hard workers only need apply. **SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY** CALL: 1-800-551-6451 or 1-915-570-4475. Contact Jessica.

22-tnc

CNA'S NEEDED for full-time & part time hours. Friendly, caring environment. Sr. Citizens Nursing Home, Winters, Tx. Contact Sarah Lee RN at 754-4566.

28b-tnc

Political Calendar

The Observer/Enterprise

has been authorized to make the following announcements for the political offices in Coke County. Each candidate or the campaign treasurer has paid for his or her announcement. All political advertising, announcements, and printing is cash in advance.

COKE COUNTY JUDGE

Jackie Walker
Roy Blair

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 1

D. Joan Davis

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 2

Jack G. Moore

COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4

George Snapp
David R. Rawlings

Hiring LVNs & CNAs

All shifts, full time, part time and PRN. Contact Rhonda or Larry
Runnels County Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
1800 N. Broadway
Ballinger, Texas
915-365-2538

THANK YOU

THE FAMILY of Wilton Scott express their thanks and gratitude to our friends and relatives that brought food and helped at the Rec Hall before his burial service in Robert Lee on Saturday, December 8. We thank those who donated to charities in his memory and for all your comforting prayers and phone calls.

Sincerely,
Larry G. Scott
22-1tp

HAPPY HOLIDAY

and best wishes to all that have remembered me this season.

May God bless and keep you, and may his kindness reach, bless, and touch all of us.

I hereby take this means to thank all of you for your thoughtfulness, kindness, and your love expressed this holy season.

Sincerely,
M. Royce Lee
22-1tp

MAINTENANCE SPECIAL \$19.95

Includes oil and filter change, lubricate chassis, multi point inspection, check belts and hoses, check all fluid levels, check tire pressure. Pennzoil 5W30 wt (up to 5 quarts) 6 quart vehicles \$1.55 more. Diesels excluded.

Special Thru 1-31-02
BEN BESSENT CHEVROLET
453-2632

Merry Christmas



*Each illustration represents a holiday song.
Can you guess all twenty-four songs?*

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Seasons Greetings



*Our special holiday
wish for you and
your family...*

*A Very Merry
Christmas
&
Happy
New
Year!*

**THE OBSERVER/
ENTERPRISE**

Serving Coke County

P.O. Box 1329 Robert Lee, TX 76945
(915) 453-2433