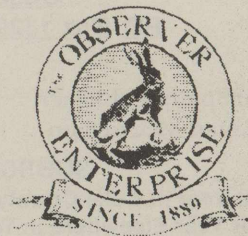


THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke County

Single Copy 35¢



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

Vol. 115, No. 19

Friday, November 29, 2002

Holiday activities set for Bronte, Robert Lee

Robert Lee

Robert Lee's annual Christmas Open House celebrations at local businesses and public buildings will be held Friday, December 6. Some of these will be during certain hours and others are scheduled as day-long events.

Santa Claus will arrive by fire truck at 3:30 pm at the front courthouse steps. Santa will be happy to see the children and listen to their Christmas requests.

This city-wide festive day just gets folks into the spirit of the holidays. Make plans to visit with the businesses and offices who will offer holiday foods, sales, and hospitality.

Bronte

Bronte will not have their annual Christmas parade and celebration. Main Street Market and Shalon's Floral Boutique have scheduled holiday open house celebrations for Saturday, December 7. Glenn-Bivins Insurance will host a holiday open house

on Thursday, December 12. Hometown Hardware will not have a designated open house, but will be holding their annual holiday activities which includes registration for prizes.

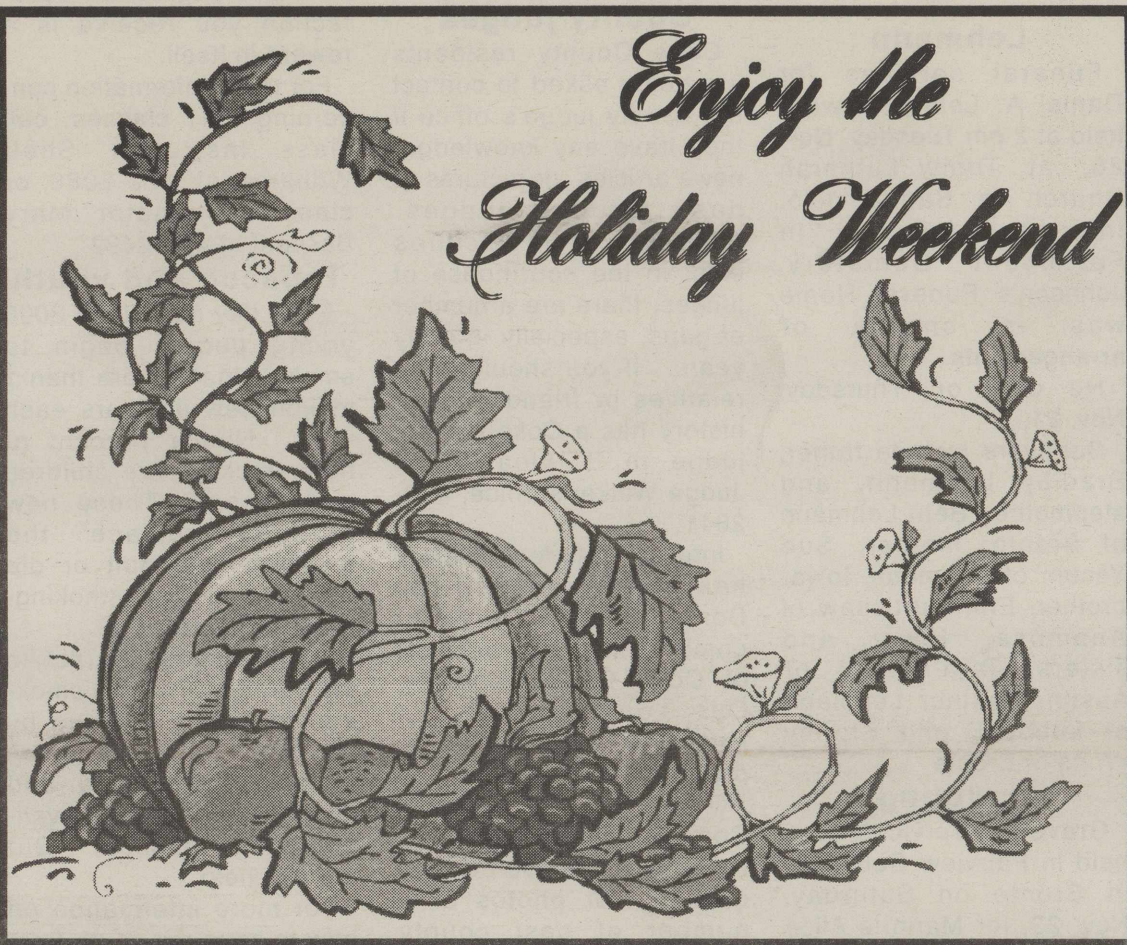
Bryans Barn to open

It's almost official now - the holiday season can't begin until Bryans Barn turns on the lights! That will happen on Sunday, December 1, and continue through December 31.

Family members and volunteers have made steady progress toward repairing damages from the Memorial Day hail and high wind that wreaked havoc with the outdoor displays.

The fairy land of lights covers about six acres, with decorations on everyday items such as an old bicycle or plastic bottles and jugs with lights inside. The family has said Wilson will light anything that doesn't move first - so don't stand still too long.

Thousands have visited,



with many repeaters coming year after year. No admission has ever been charged but donations are cheerfully accepted.

From Hwy. 208, follow E. 7th St. west through Robert Lee until it merges with FM 1904. Go west 1 mile on 1904 where the Barn is on

the left outside of town. You could just follow the glow till you find it, much as those shepherds of long ago found the Baby while following the star.

Christmas Greetings set for December 20

It is time once again for Christmas Greetings! The *Observer/Enterprise* would like to remind businesses and individuals wishing to place a Christmas greeting in the newspaper to call or stop by and choose your greeting for the December 20th paper.

Deadline for this year's greetings is Tuesday, December 17. For more information or to place an ad, contact the office at 453-2433.

4-H to sell poinsettias

The Coke County 4-H Clubs will be selling poinsettia plants for their annual fund raiser. Delivery date will be the first week in December. If you have not been contacted by a 4-H member and are interested in purchasing a plant, please contact the Coke County Extension office at 453-2461.

(LCP) Program Sign Up ends soon

Livestock producers - we are winding down on sign up for LCP. We have heard that sign up for LCP will end on December 13, 2002. There will be NO late filed applications approved. Get in as soon as possible to avoid the last minute rush.

When making application producers must know the number of cows and bulls on hand as of June 1, 2002, the number of calves that weighed 500 lbs on June 1, 2002 and the total number of sheep or goats owned on June 1, 2002. Producers must also know the number of livestock on hand as of the day you make an application for LCP.

For more information call or come by the Coke-Sterling FSA Office at Robert Lee at (915) 453-2751.

Gospel singing Sunday

The regular monthly community gospel singing will be held Sunday, December 1, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Central Baptist Church in Bronte. Everyone in the area is invited to come and enjoy this fellowship time together.



Jim and Sharon Naico have once again graced Washington Street in Robert Lee with a festive holiday decoration. They are known locally for their creative holiday displays.

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE
 Published Weekly Except Christmas
 707 Austin (915) 453-2433

(USPS 467-480) (ISSN 8750-197X)
 Periodical Rate Postage paid at Robert Lee, TX.

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

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

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

Death Notices

Lehmann
 Funeral services for Daniel A. Lehmann were held at 2 pm Tuesday, Nov. 26, at Trinity Lutheran Church in San Angelo. Interment followed in Fairmount Cemetery. Johnson's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

He died on Thursday, Nov. 21.
 Survivors include father, Bradley Lehmann, and stepmother, Beth Lehmann of Bronte; mother, Sue Yocum of Anamosa, Iowa; brother, Eric Murtishaw of Anamosa, Iowa; and sisters, Tara Ward of Austin, Heather Lehmann of Lubbock and Stormy White of Bronte.

Modgling
 Graveside services were held in Fairview Cemetery in Bronte on Saturday, Nov. 23, for Marjorie Alice Modgling.
 Mrs. Modgling, 79, died Thursday, Nov. 21, in a San Angelo nursing home. Arrangements were by Shaffer Funeral Home.
 She is survived by her husband, Bobby Modgling; and many friends.

Powell
 Lilly Lorene Powell, 90, of Coleman, and formerly of Robert Lee, died in a Bangs nursing home November 21. Graveside services were held at 3 pm in Robert Lee Cemetery.
 Survivors include her children, Doris Lara and husband, Ynes; Mildred Sweaza and husband, Rex; Ruphina Hopson;

Alvin Powell; and Robert Powell and wife, Patsy; along with a large extended family.

Interest in past County judges
 Coke County residents are being asked to contact the county judge's office if they have any knowledge, news articles, or pictures of past county judges. Although some pictures exist in the courthouse of judges, there are a number of gaps, especially in early years. If you should have relatives or friends whose history has a Coke County judge in it, please call Judge Walker's office, 453-2641.

Interest in judges' history has been renewed by Bonita Copeland's forthcoming historical account of Coke County sheriffs. Our county history is important and should be preserved.
 Coke County Commissioner Bill Wheat recently constructed two displays for photos of a number of past county judges. He is hopeful relatives and friends may know where other photos could be obtained. Even some snapshots could be enlarged for the display.

EMT classes being offered
 By JoNell Blair
 West Coke County EMS will be offering classes for any person interested in serving as a volunteer EMT in Coke County. Orientation will be held at the EMS building in Robert Lee December 5th at 6:00 pm. A CPR class has been set for Saturday, January 4th from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Classes have been

scheduled for Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 - 9:00 beginning Monday, January 6th. The last day of regular classes will be around the first of May.

Volunteers in Coke County's ambulance services are being called upon to serve more and more hours due to the declining numbers of persons willing to serve. This constant strain on members places the communities of Bronte and Robert Lee in serious jeopardy of losing emergency medical care.

Serving as an emergency medical technician is a wonderful way to give back to your friends, family, and community. While there is no financial gain, the satisfaction you receive is a reward in itself.

For more information concerning EMT classes, call class instructor Shell Williams at 453-2088 or class coordinator Mary Bessent at 453-2492.

Tobacco and youth
 Each day more than 3000 young people begin to smoke - that's more than 1 million new smokers each year. Ninety percent of new smokers are children and teens. These new smokers "replace" the smokers who quit or die prematurely from smoking-related diseases.

Many factors interact to encourage cigarette smoking, including smoking by peers and family members, tobacco advertising and promotion, and easy availability of tobacco. But there is help.
 For more information on how to save our youth from the dangers of tobacco, call the Mesquite Country Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse at (915) 235-8955.

Robertses mix business with pleasure
 Bobby and Jeffie Roberts of Robert Lee attended the Invasive Riparian Plants and Texas Water Task Force Meeting at the Capitol Extension Building in Austin November 21.

The Colorado River and its tributaries are in the plan to spray saltcedar. The cost at the present time is \$200.00 per acre. Funding is the problem.

Bobby and Jeffie drove on to Houston to visit their daughter, Sheila and Jim Farrar and Lauren. Their granddaughter, Lauren Hammerton, is a freshman and on the drill team at Klein Forest High School in Houston. Klein Forest High School football team is in the playoffs. The group attended the area playoff game between Waco and Klein Forest. The score ended Klein Forest 26 - Waco 13 leaving Klein Forest 12-0. Klein Forest will play Lufkin November 30 in the quarterfinals.

Emergency farm loan applications being accepted
 Applications for emergency farm loans for losses due to damages and losses caused by drought and excessive temperatures that occurred on various dates from January 1, 2002, and continuing, are being accepted at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office located in Sweetwater.

Coke and Sterling Counties, as primary disaster counties, were recently declared eligible for FSA EM loss loans.
 Farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 80 percent of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue in business or \$500,000.00, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders the interest is 3.75 percent.

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

until June 23, 2003 but farmers should apply as soon as possible. Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing.

FSA is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognized farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living. Eligibility is extended to individual farmers who are U.S. citizens and to farming partnerships, corporations or cooperatives in which U.S. citizens hold a majority interest.

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

American Heart Association
 Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

www.americanheart.org

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. Steve Rowe, 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
 Dr. Kenneth G. Patrick, Int. 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 • 6th & Houston
 (915) 453-2208
 Rev. Erma Johnson, Pastor
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
 10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship
 Wed. 6 pm, Prayer Meeting
- Tennyson Baptist Church**
 Hwy 277 • Tennyson, Texas
 (915) 482-0663
 Rev. Rickey D. Green, Pastor
 Sun. 10:00 am, Sunday School
 11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship


Have a Safe & Happy



THANKSGIVING DAY

Bell Auto Body Shop

Robert Lee 453-2640



THE CROSS AND THE CROWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Non-Denominational Worship

ATTENTION!

We will be meeting in the Senior Citizens Center beginning Sunday, November 3. NEW TIME! 11 am

Everyone Welcome

Rev. Jim Reeves, Pastor

**Ayers - Pitcock
exchange vows**

Amber Elaine Ayers of San Angelo, Texas, and Jerrod Kyle Pitcock of Robert Lee were united in marriage on Saturday, August 17, 2002, at 3:00 pm in the Southland Baptist Church in San Angelo.

Brother Pat Riley, cousin of the groom and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas, officiated the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Gary and Teresa Ayers of San Angelo. Amber's grandparents are Margaret Burgess of San Angelo and the late Herman Burgess and Earl and Bettye Ayers of San Angelo.

The bridegroom's parents are Darrel and Sharon Pitcock of Robert Lee. Jerrod's grandparents are D.J. and Nelia Walker of Robert Lee and Winnie Pitcock of Sanco and the late Teddy Pitcock.

Given in marriage by her father, Amber wore a handmade white satin gown with a fitted bodice and a full-length skirt. The bodice was detailed with beads and pearls as was the hemline and the train. The bride wore a strand of pearls and matching pearl drop earrings.

Amy Crawford of San Angelo, sister of the bride, served as matron of honor. Austin Ayers, brother of the bride, was the man of honor. Bridesmaids were Jaime Miller of Mertzon, Lindsey Goolsby, Robin Dorris, and Jamie Huff, all of San Angelo. Flower girls were the groom's nieces, Jessica Gaines of Dripping Springs and Alexis Johnson of San Angelo, and friend of the bride, Kaitlyn Goolsby of San Angelo.

Judd Pitcock of San Angelo, brother of the groom, served as best man. Groomsmen were Matthew Pitcock of San Angelo, brother of the groom; Travis Pitcock of Robert Lee, brother of the groom; Aaron Hood of San Angelo, cousin of the groom and Eric Hood of Mertzon, cousin of the groom.

Serving as ushers were Brian Lutz and Steve Smith.

Julie Riley of Robert Lee, cousin of the groom, and Lashawn Bearden of Menard registered the guests.

Daryl Copeland played the piano for the ceremony. Shandy Lowry served as vocalist singing, "You and Me" and "No Place That Far".

A reception in the church fellowship hall followed the ceremony. The bride's table was decorated with a silver punch bowl and a three-tiered wedding cake trimmed with fresh gerber daisies in assorted summer colors. The groom's table consisted of a German chocolate cake and a silver coffee service. The ladies who helped serve during the reception were sister of the groom, Audra Gaines, of Dripping Springs, and friends of the bride, Patti, Tomi and Andy Stooksberry, Kathy White, Kimberly Kuhns, Theresa Andrews, and Shandy Lowry, all of San Angelo.

On July 21, 2002, Amber was guest of honor at a bridal shower held at the Robert Lee Baptist



Mr. and Mrs. Jerrod Pitcock

Church Fellowship Hall. Hostesses for the occasion were Kathy McCown, Dee Anna Harmon, Barbara Jameson, Theresa Emert, Maranda Hood, Mimzi Horn, Myna Kay Copeland, Farrell Jean Washam, Alene Key, and Wanda Oleksiuk.

On August 3, 2002, Amber & Jerrod were guests of honor at a Couples Luau wedding shower in San Angelo, hosted by some of the bride's family friends.

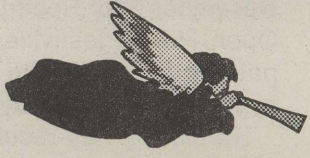
On August 13, Amber was given a bridal shower hosted by friends and family. Later that evening, she was guest of hon-

or at a lingerie shower given by friends.

Amber is a 1999 graduate of Lakeview High School in San Angelo. She is attending Angelo State University and is employed by Elite Physique.

Jerrod is a 1997 graduate of Robert Lee High School. He is attending Angelo State University and will graduate in December 2002. He is employed by Bolander Iron Works.

After a wedding trip to Las Vegas, the couple are living in San Angelo.

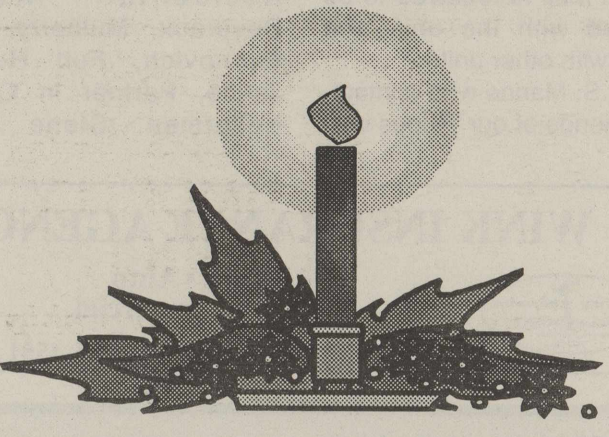


*Join us
for our*

Christmas Open House

Friday, December 6, 2002

9:00 am to 3:00 pm



**Robert Lee
State Bank**

Member FDIC

621 Austin Street Phone 453-2545
Robert Lee, Texas Tele-Bank 453-2585

LONE STAR
CARDS
WELCOME

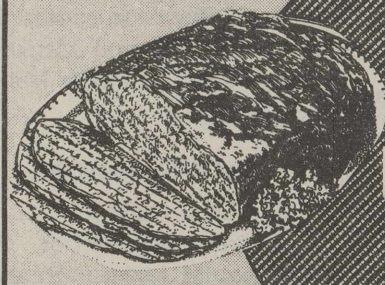
Super H
IGA

LIMIT
RIGHTS
RESERVED

501 Commerce - Robert Lee, TX

Store Hrs: Mon.-Sat. 8-8 Sun. 8-6

SPECIALS GOOD 11/29 Thru 12/3

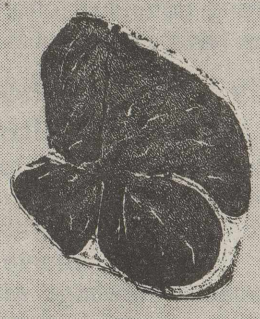


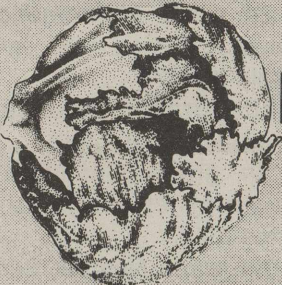
In The Bag
Whole Brisket

Lb. **.89**

Family Pack, Full Cut
Boneless Round Steak

Lb. **\$1.49**







California Head Lettuce

Ea. **.59**

Russet 10 Lb. Bag
Potatoes

10 Lb. Bag **.99**





Best Yet


Selected Varieties
Best Yet Soft Drinks

2 3 Ltr. Bottles **/\$1**

Selected Varieties
Minute Maid Orange Juice

Gal. Jug **\$3.99**





Coke

Selected Varieties
Sprite or Coca Cola

12 Pack 12 Ounce Cans **\$2.79**

BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS

Lady Longhorns post basketball wins

The Lady Longhorn's won a close game against Roscoe by a score of 34-31. Britney McCutchen led the team with 16 points followed by Heather Richey with 10, Kanah Coalson 4, Lindsay Springer 3 and Ashley Denton 1. Bronte has a record of 1-1.

The Lady Longhorn's won against Water Valley by a score of 38-14. Lindsay Springer led with 9 points followed by Britney McCutchen and Ashley Denton with 8 each. Kanah Coalson scored 6, Heather Richey 4, Natalee Reed and Melissa Walker each scored 2.

The Lady Horns made a strong defensive effort and now have a record of 2-1.

JV Lady Longhorns fall to opposition

In the Garden City tournament on November 16, Bronte JV lost to Grady 49-35. Scoring for Bronte were Rebecca Rawlings with 13 points, Ashleigh Kelly 12, Logan Acker 4, and Christan Kelly, Megan Gibbs and Jasmine Kresta scored 2 each.

In the same tournament, Bronte lost to Roscoe 22-21. Rebecca Rawlings led with 9

points, followed by Ashleigh Kelly with 6. Christan Kelly and Melissa Palmer scored 2 points each. Megan Gibbs and Jasmine Kresta each scored 1.

On the 19th, the JV girls lost to Water Valley 19-16. Rebecca Rawlings scored 9, Megan Gibbs 3, and Jasmine Kresta and Ashleigh Kelly each scored 2.

Math/Science UIL news

Saturday, November 9, 2002, Bronte Junior High and High School Math/Science students traveled to Central High School in San Angelo. They participated in the practice meet to help them prepare for the District contests. The following students attended: Jonathan Tomes, Jenna Herald, Scott Snyder, Ashley Torres, Stephen Tomes, Sherman Griffin, Josh Scott, Crystal Waller, Juston Taylor, and Paul McConnell.

Students who placed in the top ten, winning a ribbon were:

12th grade Mathematics - Jonathan Tomes (8th), Jenna Herald (10th)

12th grade Science - Jonathan Tomes (7th)

11th grade Calculator - Scott Snyder (5th), Ashley Torres (6th)

10th grade Number Sense - Sherman Griffin (6th)

8th grade Calculator - Juston Taylor had a high score but did not place.

7th grade Science - Paul McConnell had a good score but did not place.

The Junior High School District meet was held on November 23 at Miles. The High School District meet will be held March 23 at Brownwood High School.

Lady Shorthorns fall to Garden City, Menard

On November 14, the 7th grade Lady Shorthorns were defeated by Garden City 27-3. Scoring for Bronte were Holly Huskerson with 1 point and Emily Austin with 2. The 8th grade Lady Shorthorns were defeated by Garden City 54-2. Crystal Wallar scored the 2 points.

On November 18, the 7th grade girls were defeated by Menard 25-4. Scoring for Bronte were Stephanie Flores and Holly Huskerson with 2 points each. The 8th grade girls were defeated by Menard 31-5. Scoring were Crystal Wallar and Kirsten Gordon with 2 points each and Patty Galvan with 1.

Because of an early deadline, the games against Sterling City slated for

November 25 will be published next week.

Bronte Longhorns post double wins

Bronte swept past Water Valley with a nice score of 71-41. Stats are as follows: Charlie Bettis 23 points, 10 rebounds; Joel Webb 15 points, 3 assists, 3 steals; BJ Hall 14 points, 3 assists, 3 steals; Cody Lee 6 points, 3 assists; Lyndon Butler 6 points; Garrett Fiveash 3 points; Scott Snyder 2 points and Kinlee Hoyt 2 points.

Once again, Bronte came away with a nice win over Cross Plains 69-48. Stats are as follows: Charlie Bettis 23 points, 8 rebounds, 4 steals; Joel Webb 8 points, 6 rebounds, 3 steals; BJ Hall 15 points, 6 rebounds, 4 steals, 9 assists; Scott Snyder 7 points, 6 rebounds; Tyson Baker 5 points, 7 rebounds, 5 steals; Garrett Fiveash 5 points and Kinlee Hoyt 6 points and 13 rebounds.

Bronte JV boys fall in b'ball action

On Tuesday, November 19, Water Valley defeated the Bronte JV Longhorns 29-27. High scorer for Bronte was Chase Williams with 14 points. Others scoring for Bronte were Garrett Acker 3, Riley Coalson 6, Justin Minjarez 2, and Zac White 2.

On November 22, Bronte was defeated by Cross Plains by a score of 24-20. Scoring for Brontewere Riley Coalson 6, Justin Minjarez 7, Garrett Jackson 2 and Zac White 4.

Friends of our troops

Your favorite person in the U.S. military (that could be you, or someone you know) can be the Big Man/Big Woman on Campus - so to speak - when a big package of fan mail is received to be shared with the unit, and even with other units.

A U.S. Marine who contacted Friends of our Troops dur-

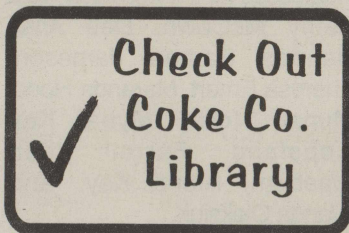
ing the last campaign said they "can't get enough" of those supportive cards and letters: "One of my fellow Marines recently received a package from you filled with mail...Could you please send more of these heartfelt letters...we can't get enough of them."

Your nominee for BMOC/BWOC can be stationed either in the U.S. or overseas, or assigned to a ship.

Required information includes the military member's name and complete military mailing address - be sure the address is current and complete, along with your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address (if any). All military names and addresses are kept completely confidential.

Send to: Friends of Our Troops, P.O. Box 65408, Fayetteville, NC 28306. We thank you, and so will all the men and women in uniform! They "can't get enough!"

P.S. See the web site www.troopfanmail.net, for more information on the fan mail campaign.



The Coke County Library will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29, for the Thanksgiving Holidays. This will be a short week for getting books for what looks like will be a cold weekend for staying in, eating left-overs and reading.

The Library will be open on December 6 for Robert Lee's Open House festivities. All patrons are invited to come by for cookies and a book.

The library has received a shipment of new books. Among them are Westerns including Brand, Lost Valley; Brooks, Billy the Kid; Olsen, Man Without a Past; Paine, Dark Trail; and Vaughan, Alamosa Trail and Bozeman, Trail.

Also received are Coulter, Eleventh Hour; Delinsky, Accidental Woman; Deveraux, Mulberry Tree; Evonovich, Full House; Jance, Partner in Crime; Kellerman, Stone Kiss;

LaHaye, Remnant; Mackenna, Good Enough To Eat: Breakfast Cookbook; and Steel, Sunset in St. Tropez.

The latest books in are Catherine Cookson's The Fifteen Streets; America's First Ladies, edited by Bill Adler; and Haunted Heritage: A Definitive Collection of North American Ghost Stories by Michael Norman and Beth Scott. The Marfa Lights are featured in this book as the Texas entry.

Story Hour children celebrated Mrs. Rowe's birthday with her last week. Brittany's cousins came to visit and so did James' great-grandmother. Everyone had a piece of cake and then went to watch a video. Some people thought that the cake would serve as a treat, but tradition has it that Oreo cookies come with the video, and so they did.

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

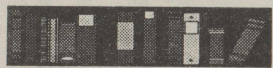
Upgrades set for culverts, guard rails

An 18-month project to begin upgrading culverts and guard rails on US 87 and US 67 will begin on November 22 (approximately), according to Patsy Rainwater-Maddux, public information officer from the Texas Department of Transportation.

The contractor, MPB, Inc. from Kerrville, will begin the upgrades on north US 87 approximately four miles north of Sterling City. The crew will work south to the Tom Green County line. Additional culvert and guard rail upgrades on US 67 from Loop 306 to the Tom Green/Irion County line is part of this project.

Motorists can expect traffic signs to announce closure of lanes in the work zone area.

School Menu



Breakfast

Monday, December 2

Cereal, Pear Halves, Toast Milk

Tuesday, December 3

Sausage Rolls, Apple Juice, Milk

Wednesday, December 4

French Toast Sticks, Grape Juice, Milk

Thursday, December 5

Breakfast Burrito, Orange Juice, Milk

Friday, December 6

Donut, Orange Half, Teddy Grams

Lunch

Monday, December 2

Pizza, Sweet Corn, Tossed Salad, Milk, Applecrisp

Tuesday, December 3

Steak Fingers with Gravy, Creamed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Milk, Chocolate Pudding

Wednesday, December 4

Chicken Spaghetti, Tossed Salad, Corn on the Cob, Bread Sticks, Milk, Jello

Thursday, December 5

Burrito, Pinto Beans, Spanish Rice, Tossed Salad, Milk, Peanut Butter Cookies

Friday, December 6

Sloppy Joes, French Fries, Ranch Style Beans, Milk, Cinnamon Rolls

WINK INSURANCE AGENCY



Home • Auto
Life • Commercial

715 Austin • 453-4551

Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Department

is hosting a

DANCE with DRIFTWOOD

Saturday • December 7 • 8 - Midnight

Show Barn in Robert Lee
\$3 per person

Call or stop by today for the
investments
you need
and the
excellent
service
you deserve.



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

www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones
Serving Individual Investors Since 1871
Member SIPC

ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS

RLISD Board meets

The Robert Lee ISD board of directors met in regular session Thursday, November 21, 2002, with all members present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the current bills were approved for payment.

Special guest was Kelli Karczewski of Schwartz and Eichelbaum. She discussed various procedures and contracts to be considered. The board extended the current contract with Schwartz and Eichelbaum.

The board discussed representation for appeals for property taxes, unreserved fund balance, class size and current TASB policy updates.

The principals gave their reports and Superintendent Wallace gave his report. The next regular board meeting will be December 12, 2002, at 7 pm.

Lady Steers post two more victories

With their "get after it" attitude, the Lady Steers scratched and clawed their way to two more victories this past week. They defeated Forsan 51-25 and then outlasted Grape Creek 55-48. In the Forsan game, it was Krystal Soliz leading in the scoring column, as she had 17 points and 9 rebounds. Christina Middleton also scored in double figures with 11 points. Eight other Lady Steers found the scoring column as follows: Kindra Matthews 2 and 6 assists, Jessica Fluhmann 5, Monica Rodriguez 1, Rachel Wallace 3, Tyler Lott 2, Cara Eaton 6, Amie Kendall 2 and Michelle Sanchez 2.

In the Grape Creek victory, it was Soliz, once again, pacing the Lady Steers with 19 points and Matthews leading in the assist column with 10. Middleton had 11 points once

again and 8 rebounds. Others scoring were: Fluhmann 4, Lott 6, Eaton 6, and Michelle Sanchez came off the bench to spark the Lady Steers in the second quarter, as she finished with 8 points. Matthews also had 1 point.

Next action for the Lady Steers will be at Christoval, Dec. 3, and then they open the Irion County Tournament on Dec. 5 at 9:00 am against Rankin.

RLJV Lady Steers win one, lose one

Robert Lee won a close one against Forsan by a score of 22-21. Scoring for Robert Lee were Cassidy Wink 5, Kayli Dickey 2, Brittany Soliz 4, Julie Riley 7, Kyla Millican 2 and Lindsey Roe 2.

The JV lost to Grape Creek 35-21. Scoring for Robert Lee were Wink 1, Alana Parker 2, Tiffany Bagwell 2, Riley 11, Millican 2 and Roe 3.

RLJH Lady Dogies fall to Rankin, Garden City

In the Garden City "A" tournament on the 23rd, the girls lost to Rankin 28-22. Scoring were Becca Skinner 10, Sarah Philley 8, Katie Bessent and Tasha Aguirre 2 each.

In the second game, Robert Lee lost to Garden City 20-15. Scoring were Katie Bessent 5, Sarah Philley and Becca Skinner 3 each, Bretnie Reed and Kelsy Duncan each had 2.

Steers win close game

On the 15th, the Steers won against Coahoma 44-42. Scoring for Robert Lee were Pitcock with 21, Flanagan 9, Riley 8, Gallegos, Millican and Arellano each had 2.

On the 19th, the Steers lost to Forsan 61-57. Riley led with 18 points followed by Pitcock with 14. Close behind was Gallegos with 12 and Saucedo 9. Abalos and Arellano each had 2.

Dishes fit for a holiday feast

Area 4-Hers showed off culinary skills that were fit for the coming holiday season during the annual District 7 Extension 4-H Food Show November 16. The show was held in Abilene's Taylor County Expo Center. The event attracted 179 entries from across the 23 counties in Texas Cooperative Extension's District 7.

Winners were named in senior, intermediate, and junior categories. The young gourmets were judged on their knowledge of nutrition, food preparation, principle, and the quality of their food entry.

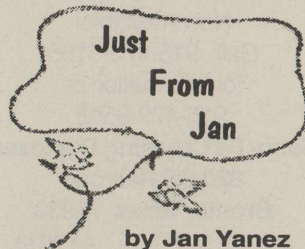
Those participating from Coke County were: Logan Philley, 5th in Junior Snacks & Desserts; Emilee Yanez, Kacee Roberts and Heidi Austin receiving participant ribbons.

Each 4-H member entering the district competition won their division earlier in their home

county's food show.

The District 7 Food Show is a culmination of the Foods and Nutrition Project taught annually in each of the District's counties. Trained volunteer adult and teen leaders conduct the projects for hundreds of 4-Hers during the year.

Sponsors for this year's show are Texas Cooperative Extension and America's Energy Partner/West Texas Utilities (AEP/WTU).



by Jan Yanez
Cooperative
Extension Agent
**Plan for a
safe holiday bird**

Whether a novice or an experienced turkey cooker, plan ahead and follow these steps to make the process of preparing and serving the holiday turkey safe and worry-free:

*Decide how much turkey you will need before you shop. You'll need about one pound per person, or one and one-half pounds per person if you want plenty of leftovers.

*Make sure you have the equipment needed. Do you have a roasting pan large enough to roast a large turkey? If not, an alternative would be to roast two small birds instead of one large one. For best results, plan to use a meat thermometer to register internal cooking temperature.

*Decide whether to buy a fresh or frozen turkey. A frozen turkey can be purchased well in advance, but a fresh bird should be bought only one to two days ahead.

*If you have a frozen bird, plan for enough days to refrigerator-defrost it. A rule of thumb is about 24 hours of defrost time for each 5 pounds of turkey.

*When handling the bird, wash hands, sink, counter, utensils and platter thoroughly with soap and water before and after handling. This will help prevent contamination and potential food safety problems.

*If you plan to serve stuffing, the safest alternative is to cook the stuffing in a separate pan. Stuffing inside a bird can remain at temperatures that encourage bacterial growth. If you choose to stuff the bird, do it right before roasting, not ahead of time.

*Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Place the turkey breast-side up in a shallow roasting pan. Insert meat ther-

mometer in an inner thigh of the bird.

*Allow 15 to 18 minutes per pound cooking time for an unstuffed bird and 18 to 24 minutes for a stuffed bird. A whole turkey is done when the internal temperature reaches 180 degrees F in the inner thigh (dark meat). A turkey breast should reach 170 degrees F internal temperature. Stuffing should reach at least 165 degrees F.

*Allow the cooked turkey to sit for 20 minutes before carving.

*It's very important to refrigerate leftovers immediately after the meal. Carve leftovers from the bone and refrigerate immediately. Cooked turkey and stuffing should not remain at room temperature for more than two hours.

*If you choose to roast the turkey ahead of time, it needs to be de-boned after cooking and refrigerated in shallow containers.

The meat can be reheated in the oven or microwave before serving.

Follow these tips to keep the holiday fun, not frantic.

Contact www.turkeyfed.org. 202-898-0100.

News from ACT

If you're in high school and would like a little advice about planning for college and a career, 10 high school and college writers for ACT provide the following top 10 tips:

1. Work hard the entire four years of high school so you will be more appealing to colleges and have a better chance at earning scholarships.

2. Pursue college regardless of what your peers or even your parents say. Don't let anyone talk you out of achieving your goals.

3. Treat your college entrance exam like a regular test, without

all the pressure of thinking it will determine your college future. Colleges also consider your GPA and other factors.

4. If your parents didn't go to college, check out early outreach and summer programs at nearby colleges to expose yourself to college life and career areas of interest.

5. When you make a college visit, set up a counseling session with a student or graduate. You can ask questions you are too scared to ask in a group.

6. Keep your options open, and apply to more than one or two colleges, both public and private schools.

7. When you choose your college major or career, begin by asking what really interests you. Many teens overlook this.

8. Talk to people working in careers that reflect your interests and find out from them what the "real world" is like. What do they like and dislike about their jobs?

9. Make sure you like the people you'll be going to school with - and that's the whole institution, including students, alumni, parents, professors, officials - because they're the ones who are going to be influencing and shaping you for the next four years.

10. Once in college, stay connected to the key elements of your identity - family, friends, interests - yet open yourself to new ideas, activities and social situations.

ACT features 10 high school and college student writers on its website to help other students plan their future. To read more from the student writers, visit the student section at www.act.org.



School Menu

Breakfast

Monday, December 2

Pancake on a Stick, Juice, Cereal, Milk

Tuesday, December 3

Donut, Cereal, Juice, Milk

Wednesday, December 4

Muffin, Cereal, Juice, Milk

Thursday, December 5

Pigs In A Blanket, Cereal, Juice, Milk

Friday, December 6

Cinnamon Roll, Cereal, Juice, Milk

Lunch

Monday, December 2

Burrito, Salad, Tator Tots, Peaches, Cookie, Milk

Tuesday, December 3

Pizza, Salad, Corn, Applesauce, Teddy Grahams, Milk

Wednesday, December 4

Chicken O's, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Fruit Cocktail, Rolls, Milk

Thursday, December 5

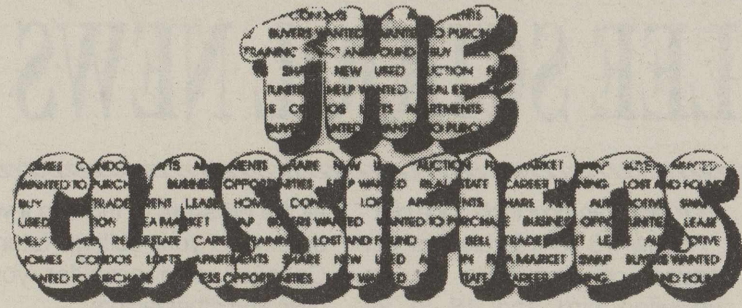
Salisbury Steak, Scalloped Potatoes, English Peas, Bread, Jello, Milk

Friday, December 6

Hamburger, Chips, Pickles, Salad, Pears, Milk

**D. J.'s MERLE
NORMAN COSMETICS**
WILL BE OPEN EVERY SATURDAY
THROUGH CHRISTMAS • 10 AM - 2 PM
See us for all your Christmas Gift needs.
Jewelry • Pottery • Candles • Cologne 453-4642


Friends & Customers of
IVEY MOTOR COMPANY, INC.
are invited to their Christmas Open House
Friday, December 6
11 am to 3 pm
453-4561



BUY IT! SELL IT! FIND IT!

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


 EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

FOR SALE
 Living room furniture, 2 chairs with matching coffee table and sofa. Call 453-5031.
 18-tnc

2000 BLAZER LS
 4L V6, Ext. Warranty, 49K miles, good tires, CD Stereo. Call Becky or Ricky, 453-4671.
 18-2tc

FOR SALE
 Corner lot at 201 Cumbie in Bronte. Great for single-wide mobile home. Fenced with double covered parking. Will leave Direct TV and Directway Internet satellite connections. \$5,000. (915) 473-4455.
 18-4tp

5,500 +/- ACRES
 West of Robert Lee. Over five miles of frontage on both sides of Colorado River and Lake Spence frontage. Trophy deer, turkey, quail. Perpetual use of an additional 2,000 +/- acres for grazing/hunting depending upon volume of water in Lake Spence. Water wells and municipal taps. Paved road frontage. Will divide. \$425/acre. Kash Morrow. Kash Morrow Co. 830-895-7722.
 18-4tc

FOR SALE
 Spacious 4/2 home on 2 acres of land. Large den, tool shed and many extras. Call 453-5031.
 18-tnc

SELLING HOUSE
 from estate. Lots of features. Close to RLISD. Great buy for young family. Sold as is. Call 655-9141.
 12-tnc

FOR SALE
 Adorable home in Robert Lee. 214 W. 10th, 2 BR, 2 bath. Fenced yard. \$43,000 firm, or rent for \$500/month with \$500 deposit. (972) 841-5352.
 10-tnc

HOUSE CLEANING
 453-2259
 Gina Bell


10 ACRES with Custom 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Home Built-in cabinets in Den! Covered Patio, Carport & Storage Bldg!


LOCATED AT EDGE OF TOWN! Almost 2 acres! 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Home has large kitchen & utility room could be office! Double Garage/Shop! 40's!!!

160 ACRES Pastureland off Hwy 158! **SOLD** with Large Barn!

600+ MOUNTAINOUS with Windmills & Rural Water! Creek & Minerals!

160 ACRES off Water Valley Hwy! **SOLD** Building Site! Water wells & Rural Water!

960+ ACRES Pastureland with Mountain Views! Surface Ponds & Windmill!
SOLD

FOR RENT
 Home for the Holidays. Available Now! 906 Childress, RLISD. Lease/Purchase. Nice terms for right family.
 19-tnc

FOR RENT
 Bronte Mini Storage has storage buildings for rent. Call 473-2221.
 03-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
 44-51tp

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

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


3 BEDROOM 2 Bath Home. Updates include kitchen, paint & flooring. CH/CA Oversized Garage on Corner Lot. \$60's!


2 STORY HOME ON ACREAGE! 4 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath. 2 Fireplaces and 2 Living Areas! Barn & Pens on almost 7 Acres

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


 Becky Clendennen

"Need House and Land Listings for Qualified Buyers!" Call Me Today!

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

Bronte
 28 Acres with very nice 3 BR, 2 BA, CA/CH, with hilltop views
 4 BR, 2 BA Brick Home, over 2100 sq. ft. in a good location
 2 BR, 1 BA, good starter home
Blackwell
 2 BR, 1 BA, very nice, updated rock home with garage apartment
 3 BR, 2 BA, extremely nice 11 yr old brick home, single garage, storage building, very nice storm cellar
Oak Creek Lake, 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA, Enclosed garage with attached office, floating boat dock
Lake Spence Area, 2 BR, 1 BA, Ceramic tile, sundeck, guest quarters.
Robert Lee
 2 BR, 1 BA w/ upstairs garage apartment
 3 BR, 1 1/2 BA, Brick home, 2 lots, Carport, Storage building

Priced to Sell, 4 BR, 2 bth, large den with second living area. CA/CH over 2100 sq. ft.
 Priced reduced, 2 BR, 1 bth, CA/CH, sunroom or 3rd BR, large kitchen, single garage, over 1800 sf
 500+/- AC. Deep Creek, rolling Cedar Hills, Rural Water, Great Hunting
 448+/- AC. electricity, good water and excellent hunting.
 320+/- AC. highway and county road access. Choice building site. Convenient to Bronte. Seller will divide.
 292+/- Acres, very nice 11 yr old brick home, barns, all steel pens, setup for goat operation, scenic mountain area
 110+/- Acres, waterwell, view of Lake Spence.
 700+/- Acres, priced to sell, rolling cedar hills, 2 water wells, electricity, Excellent Hunting

Other Listings Available

CARD OF THANKS

OUR SINCERE
 appreciation goes to Bro. Dale Patterson, the Pecan Baptist Church congregation, and others in the community for the bountiful lunch served to us prior to the funeral. Thank you so much for your gracious hospitality.
 The extended family of
 Bill Casey
 19-1tc

NOTICES

NOTICE OF IMPOUNDMENT OF ESTRAY
 On the 15th day of November, 2002, I impounded the following estray:
 Kind of Animal: Bovine
 Breed: Crossbred
 Color: Black with white face
 Sex: Male
 Age: 2-4 years of age
 Size: Approx. 1,000 lbs
 Brand, Mark, Identifying Characteristics: No visible marks or brands
 and, on the 15th day of November, 2002, I filed a Notice of Estray in the Estray Book of Coke County, Texas. I have made a diligent search of the register of recorded brands in Coke County, Texas, for the owner of said estray, but the search did not reveal the owner.
 Notice is hereby given that, if the ownership of said estray is not determined by the 4th day of December, 2002, said estray will be sold at public auction at Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, TX.
 Witness my hand this 15th day of November, 2002.

Rick Styles
 Sheriff of Coke County, Texas
 Wayne McCutchen
 Designee of Sheriff of Coke County, Texas
 18-2tc

November Home Care and Hospice Month
 Governor Rick Perry honored thousands of care providers who take care of elderly and disabled Texans in their homes by designating November as Home Care Month and Hospice Month.
 "Home Care and Hospice

are the heart and soul of health care in this state and the nation - serving persons of all ages who are ill, infirm, disabled, or dying - providing necessary treatment, care, and supports which allow them to remain at home with their loved ones," said Anita Bradberry, Executive Director of the Texas Association for Home Care (TAHC).

Home care and hospice can delay or prevent the need for institutional care or utilization of emergency rooms. Health experts agree that people who are able to stay in their homes enjoy the option of having this kind of health care and respond better to treatment.
 In his proclamation, Governor Perry recognized the Texas Association for Home Care as an organization "working to keep Texans proud and independent." He also said "the support network formed by this dedicated group will continue to play a vital role in health care delivery for many Texans."

Ms. Bradberry said she hopes the designation of November as National Home Care and Hospice Month will raise the public's awareness of the options they have in caring for their loved ones.

"We also hope that the lawmakers who will assemble in Austin this January will gain better understanding of the place home care and hospice have in the health delivery system and not cut funding to these valuable programs in trying to balance the budget," said Bradberry. There are currently 50,000 persons eligible for nursing home level of care who are on waiting lists for Medicaid funded home care services in Texas.

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE
 Serving Coke County
 P.O. Box 1329 Robert Lee, TX 76965
 (915) 453-2453

drop box is located at
HOMETOWN HARDWARE
 in Bronte.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

BALLINGER, TEXAS

Elm Creek Flea Market Special, 401 Park Avenue. November 29 through December 8. Santa will be here December 7 from 10 am to 2 pm. (915) 365-6382.

19-1tp

MOVING SALE

Saturday, November 30, 8-12, 102 Mesquite Road, Bronte.

19-1tc

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Spacious 3 BR/3 Bath with many extras including: Large Den, Formal Living/Dining Room, hardwood floors, fireplace, large trees and sprinkler system. Call 453-4629.

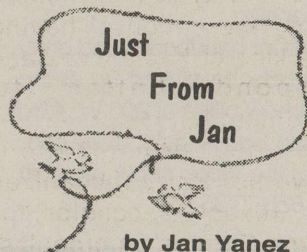
19-1tp

Texas Hill Country kicks off holiday season

The Holiday Season will soon be upon us, and that means it's time for the annual Texas Hill Country Regional Christmas Lighting Trail, which kicks off officially November 29, 2002, and lasts until January 1, 2003.

This year, there are eleven communities participating with lights and displays galore, festivals, concerts and so much more! They are Blanco, Boerne, Bulverde, Fredericksburg, Goldthwaite, Johnson City, Llano, Marble Falls, New Braunfels, Round Mountain and Wimberley. Each town has its own charm and personality to make the season a memorable one.

If you would like more information, please give us a call at the Headquarters office at 830-977-8515.



by Jan Yanez
Cooperative
Extension Agent

What to do with the leftovers

Following are some food safety tips to remember when storing your turkey leftovers:

*Within two hours after roasting, remove stuffing from turkey and carve the meat, remove from the bones, then store in refrigerator or freezer.

*Wrap turkey slices and stuffing separately, and refrigerate and use within three days.

*Use refrigerated gravy within three days.

*Freeze leftovers if you plan to store them for a longer period of time. Wrap in heavy freezer wrap or place in freezer container; for optimum taste use turkey within two months.

Tired of the same leftovers and need some new ideas? For something new and different with the leftover turkey, these terrific tasting nachos and quesadillas tap into the Tex-Mex food craze and make for crowd-pleasing nibbling.

Turkey Nachos

9 servings
3 Tbsp. lime juice
2 Tbsp. Olive oil
1 tsp. ground cumin, 1 tsp. garlic powder
2 cups coarsely chopped cooked turkey
salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
1 bag (10 oz.) large-size

tortilla chips

1 can (16 oz.) refried beans
2 cups (8 oz.) shredded reduced-fat Monterey Jack or Cheddar cheese

1 jar (16 oz.) prepared salsa
sour cream and fresh cilantro sprigs to garnish (optional)

1. Heat oven to 425 degrees F.

2. Whisk together lime juice, olive oil, cumin and garlic powder; toss with turkey in a small bowl and season with salt and pepper.

3. Make a layer of tortilla chips to cover the bottom of a large 12 to 14-inch round or oval baking dish. Evenly spoon refried beans over chips (use the entire can of beans). Top with turkey and sprinkle with 1 cup shredded cheese.

4. Make another layer of tortilla chips. Spoon half the salsa evenly over chips. Top with remaining cup of cheese.

5. Bake nachos until heated through and cheese melts and begins to bubble, 15 to 20 minutes. Serve hot with remaining salsa, sour cream and cilantro, if desired.

Turkey Quesadillas

4 servings

8 (6 to 8-inch) fat-free flour tortillas

3/4 cup reduced-fat or fat-free sour cream

1 cup finely chopped cooked turkey

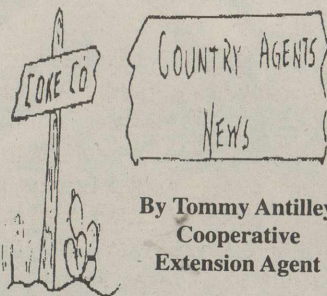
1/2 cup prepared salsa

1 cup (4 oz.) shredded reduced-fat or fat-free cheese

2 Tbsp. minced fresh cilantro

1. Spread one side of each tortilla with 1 1/2 Tbsp. sour cream. Top half of the tortillas with a thin layer of turkey and then dot each evenly with the salsa, cheese, and cilantro. Top with the remaining flour tortilla, sour cream side down, to make a sandwich.

2. Place each quesadilla on a microwavable plate and microwave on high power for about 1 minute, or until the cheese is thoroughly melted and the quesadilla hot throughout. Repeat process with each quesadilla. Cut the quesadillas into 4 to 6 wedges and serve at once.



By Tommy Antilley
Cooperative
Extension Agent

Anthrax - is it a real threat?

Anthrax is not a new disease, or one that is distributed or started by terrorist. We have had anthrax for decades, and ever once in a while when conditions are right, there is a break out. Recently there were two confirmed cases near Brady, but this is in no way a reason to panic.

Anthrax is a serious infectious disease caused by

a bacteria called *Bacillus anthracis*. This bacteria occurs naturally in certain species of animals in the southwestern part of Texas. Many different types of animals, as well as people, can get the disease.

Although anthrax can occur anywhere in the state, the cases are most often confined to a triangular area bounded by the towns of Uvalde, Ozona and Eagle Pass. This area includes portions of Crockett, Edwards, Kinney, Maverick, Sutton, Uvalde, and Val Verde Counties. In these counties, many livestock producers routinely vaccinate livestock against the disease.

Anthrax outbreaks depend on two factors working together: the presence of anthrax spores in the soil, and suitable weather conditions. The bacteria grows and contaminates the surface soil and grass after periods of wet, cool weather, followed by several weeks of hot, dry conditions. Outbreaks in animals usually end when cool weather arrives and the bacteria becomes dormant. An outbreak may occur one year, but not the next. Death loss may occur in one pasture, while animals nearby remain healthy.

Grazing and browsing animals, such as cattle, sheep, goats, horses, and exotic and domestic deer are the species usually infected with anthrax. They inhale or ingest the anthrax bacteria as they eat plants which have been contaminated with the bacteria. Domestic and wild swine are fairly resistant to anthrax although they may become ill. Dogs, cats, and other carnivores are very rarely infected with anthrax, and symptoms in these species are usually much less severe than in deer and livestock.

Signs of the illness usually appear 3-7 days after the anthrax spores are inhaled or swallowed but may occur sooner if a large number of spores are inhaled. Once symptoms begin, animals usually die within two days. Seriously-affected animals may stagger, have difficulty breathing, tremble, and finally collapse and die within a few hours. Animals with less serious cases may have a rise in temperature, a period of excitement followed by staggering, depression, unconsciousness, difficulty breathing, convulsions, and death.

Signs many make a veterinarian suspicious of anthrax, but the disease can often be confused with other illnesses. Confirmed diagnosis can only be made through laboratory testing of the animals blood.

It is usually hopeless to treat animals that are already showing signs of anthrax. Occasionally, if the disease is

diagnosed soon after infection, antibiotics, along with adequate nursing care, may help.

A vaccine for livestock is frequently used in areas where anthrax is common, but the vaccine must be used before the animal is infected with the bacteria. The vaccine for livestock is not the same as the one for humans. No vaccine is available for pets.

How do people get anthrax? Anthrax spores are not in the air or in water. However, you should avoid touching any animal carcasses you come across in the wild. People usually get anthrax through handling a dead or sick animal infected with anthrax or eating the meat from infected animals. Shearers, stockmen, and veterinarians, as well as other agricultural workers exposed to hides or raw wool have a slightly increased risk for anthrax.

Symptoms of disease vary depending on how the disease was contracted, but usually occur within 7 days after exposure. The three forms of human anthrax are inhalation anthrax (caused when the spores are inhaled into the lungs), cutaneous anthrax (caused when broken skin comes into contact with infected animals or hides), and intestinal anthrax (caused when undercooked meat from an infected animal is eaten).

Initial symptoms of inhalation anthrax infection may resemble a common cold. After several days, the symptoms may progress to severe breathing problems and shock. Inhalation anthrax is usually fatal, unless the patient is treated before any symptoms occur.

The intestinal disease form of anthrax may follow the consumption of contaminated food and is characterized by an acute inflammation of the intestinal tract. Initial signs of nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting, and fever are followed by abdominal pain, vomiting of blood, and severe diarrhea. Like inhalation anthrax, the intestinal form is usually fatal.

The cutaneous form of the disease begins with itching at the site of the exposure, followed by the formation of a round, pimple-like sore. Initially, it may resemble a spider or insect bite. This sore will then form a blister which, after 2-6 days will become a hard, black scab (similar to the scab left after a deep burn). Untreated, between 5 and 20% of patients will die. However, with adequate antibiotic treatment very few deaths occur.

Direct person-to-person spread of anthrax is extremely unlikely, if it occurs at all. Therefore, there is no need to immunize or treat contacts of persons ill with anthrax, such as household contacts, friends, or coworkers, unless they also were exposed to the same source of infection.

As a hunter, am I at risk for contracting anthrax? The normal hunting season in Texas occurs in the cooler months of the year when anthrax bacteria is dormant and cases traditionally do not occur. Anthrax rapidly results in the death of infected animals, and diseased animals appear very ill before they die. There is a very little risk of infection as long as hunters harvest only healthy animals, wear latex gloves and long sleeved shirts when field dressing them, and thoroughly cook the meat before eating it.

An effective anthrax vaccine for livestock and horses can be purchased through private veterinary practitioners, feed stores, or animal health product distributors. The injection can be administered by private veterinary practitioners or rancher personnel and is recommended for:

livestock residing in or near an area where anthrax often occurs; and

*animals that will be moved into the area, such as horses transported to trail rides.

During an outbreak, white-tailed deer often suffer the most from the disease, as they cannot be rounded up and handled like domestic or farmed exotic livestock.

Remember When...

By Pat Watson

• The phone office and switch board were in a house in south Robert Lee. A full size phone booth was in one room.

• Black shades were put on gym windows so some one could show a movie once in a while.

• Women stood in long lines at J.C. Penny in San Angelo to buy a pair of nylons.

• There were German prisoners of war at Brownwood. Some escaped and a few were seen in our area. Some did not want to go home to Germany.

• Penny's (downtown Angelo) did not have cash registers but wrote a ticket with purchases on it and your money or check were placed in a container and sent up on the 3rd floor to the cashier's cage and change sent back down. Later a vacuum type was used.

JIMMY'S AUTOMOTIVE & TIRE SHOP

121 W. 10th
Robert Lee, Texas
(Across from Bell's Auto Body Shop)



We now have
hunting & fishing licenses.

For Appointment, Call: 453-9933 • 473-8650
Jimmy & Staci Womack

DARYL'S BODY SHOP

300 STATE HWY 229
ROBERT LEE, TEXAS 76945

DARYL COPELAND, OWNER 453-2980

CC Community Network adds new class

Robert Lee ISD and the Coke County Community Network has added to the classes offered by the CN3 grant obtained from the TIF Board of Texas.

One new class, "Basic Keyboarding Techniques", will be taught by Kathy McCown in the Business Lab on December 2, 3 and 5 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

A Power Point Basic class will be held December 2, 3, and 5.

A Works class will be held December 9, 10, and 12.

A new word processing class will be held January 20, 21, and 23. This class is being held for the many who couldn't get into the October class.

Other classes that may be offered that are not on the list at this time are: "Quick-books", "Turbo-Tax", and "E-bay".

If anyone has suggestions for classes he/she needs, contact Jerry Horn or Kathy McCown at Robert Lee ISD.

NAP Application deadline nears

The County FSA Office reminds all local farmers and ranchers that the application closing date to sign up for the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) for native and improved pastures is December 2, 2002.

NAP covers crops damaged by severe weather that result in a loss of 50% or greater. Producers interested in obtaining crop insurance on perennial pastures should visit the FSA Office as soon as possible to complete an application for their 2003 acres. For all native and improved pastures, producers must report acres and file a notice of loss in a timely manner.

Don't forget that December 2, 2002, is the final date to purchase a NAP policy on grass for 2003.

Forest Service offers windbreak trees

Seedlings for conservation windbreaks are now available for order through the Coke County Soil and Water Conservation district (SWCD). Landowners in Coke County are encouraged to purchase the one-year-old seedlings before preferred stock is sold out.

Each year thousands of regionally adapted seedlings are grown from seed by the Texas Forest Service West Texas Nursery in Lubbock. The agency's primary objective is to produce and sell quality seedlings at a price landowners can afford, allowing them to plant large quantities of trees for windbreaks, says Robert Fewin, Texas Forest Service forester, Lubbock.

"Windbreaks are trees and shrubs systematically planted adjacent to fields, homesteads, or feedlots as a

barrier to reduce or redirect the wind," Fewin explains. "They create permanent, natural protection and habitat for wildlife, reduce erosion, and increase land value and aesthetics." Available species for Coke County include afghan pine, austrian pine, arizona cypress, redcedar, pinyon pine, italian stone pine, amur honeysuckle, skunkbush sumac, shumard oak, green ash, russian olive, desert willow, lacebark elm, hackberry honeylocust, sand plum, fourwing saltbush, nanking cherry, flameleaf sumac, and osage orange.

Wildlife packets for habitat establishment also are available. Each of the four wildlife packets contain 100 bare-root trees and shrubs which cater specifically to the habitat needs of quail and pheasant, deer, turkey, or squirrel.

Orders will be taken through Monday, January 27, 2003, and will be delivered February 6, 2003.

To order windbreak trees contact the Coke County SWCD located at 214 East 7th Street in Robert Lee or call 453-2623, ext. 3.

For more information about the display, call (915) 949-5097.

Mason Arts & Crafts Show set for Nov. 30

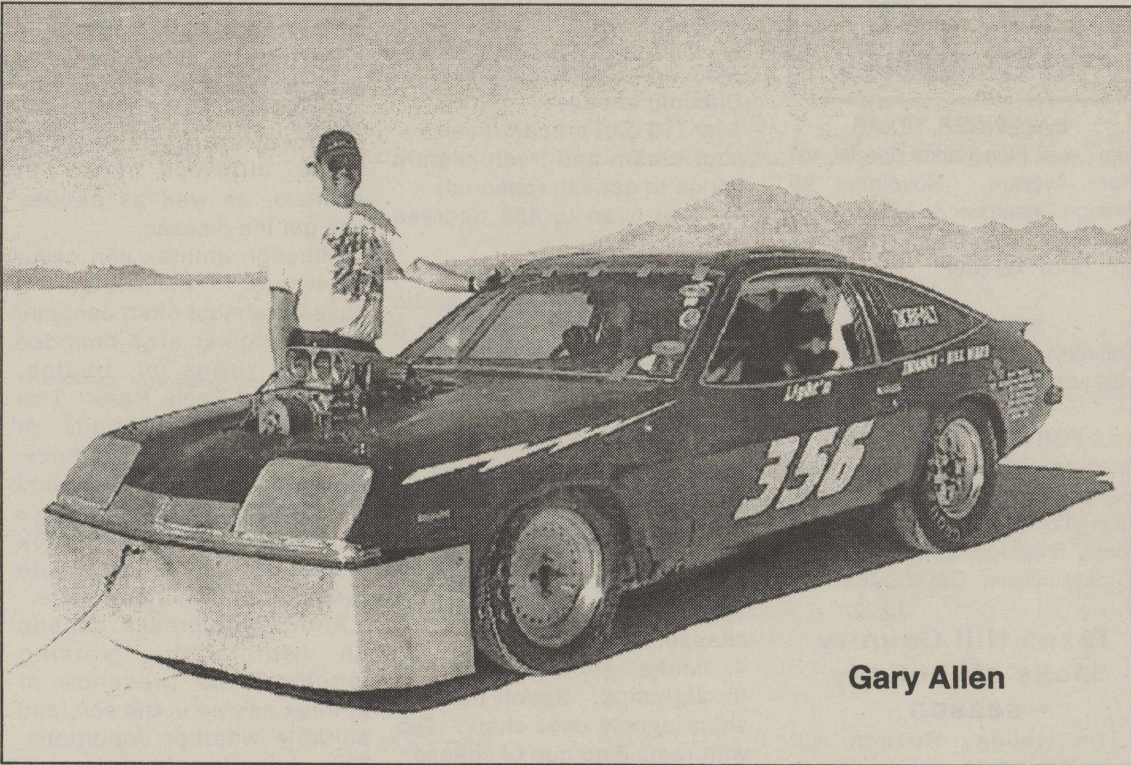
The Mason Arts and Crafts Guild's seventeenth annual Tannenbaum Time Arts & Crafts show takes place Saturday, November 30th. Kicking off Mason's Christmas "Light Up Our Town" festivities, the show will be held at the Fort Mason City Park Community Building.

A limited number of booths are still available and only handcrafted items are allowed. Now is the time to apply for the remaining booths. For additional information please call Doreen Cardenas, 915-265-4302 or Ramona Voges, 915-258-4623.

Gary Allen sets National Speed Record

Gary Allen, a Bronte graduate, recently set a National Speed Record during the World Finals speed trials on the Bonneville Salt Flats in October. Gary attained an average speed of 236.768 mph in 2 runs through the timed mile in his 299 ci, brown alcohol 1975 Chevy Monza. The new record allowed for his induction in the prestigious Bonneville 200 MPH Club for exceeding the previous record of 233.100 mph in the class. Gary is also the President of the Utah Salt Flats Racing Association which sponsors the World of Speed event on the Bonneville Salt Flats in September each year. More information can be obtained about participation in the speed trials on the world famous Bonneville Salt Flats at www.saltflats.com.

Gary's wife, Kathy, also a Bronte graduate, is the daughter of Norman R. (Wink) Kiker of Bronte. They currently make their home in Liberty, Utah, which is in the mountains out-



Gary Allen

side Ogden, Utah. Their sons, Michael and Marc, reside close by in Clearfield, Utah with their families. Michael is the crew chief for the racing team and will be driving the car next year in an attempt to raise the record to over 240 mph.

Coke County Head Start Accepting Applications

Coke County Head Start is currently accepting applications for all children ages 3-5 years of age. Head Start is a Community Based Program working to strengthen families. Services provided by the Head Start Program include health screenings, nutritional assessments, case management services and child care/educational services. Services are provided Monday - Friday, 7:45 am - 2:30 pm. The program provides children with a nutritional breakfast, snack and

lunch. The Head Start Program is provided at no cost to enrolled families. For more information about this beneficial program please contact, Carmen Chavez, CDI - Family Service Worker at (915) 655-7522 or contact Mary Ann Garcia, Coke County Center Director at (915) 453-2536.

Abilene Christmas Arts and Crafts

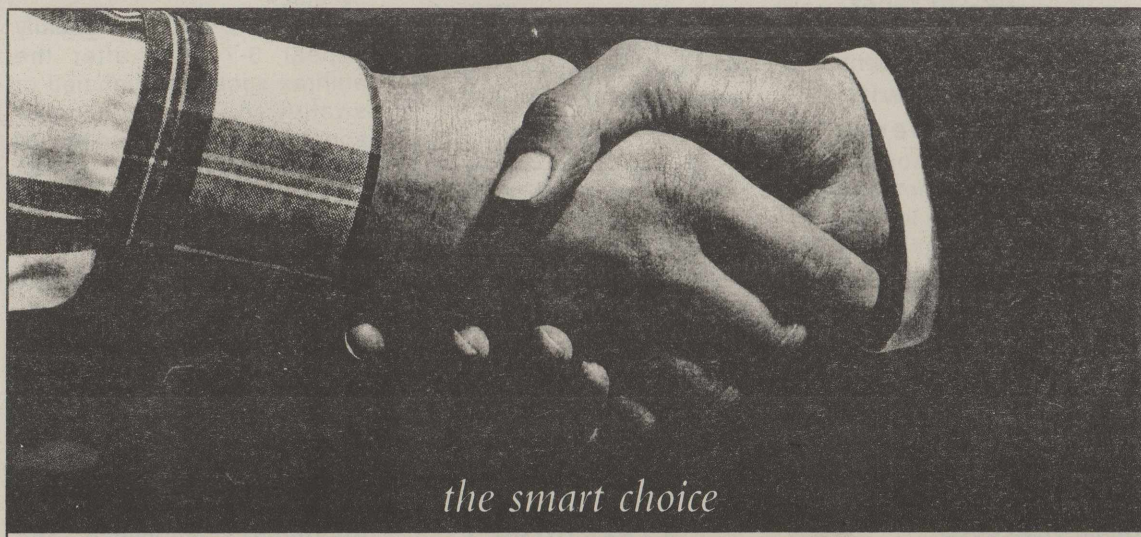
The 10th annual Abilene Christmas Arts and Crafts Festival will be November 30th thru December 1st in the Abilene Civic Center. Artists and crafters from throughout the Southwest will fill the foyer and main exhibit hall with original art, limited edition prints and handcrafted items. Hours for the festival are Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday from noon to 5 pm. There is no admission charge.

Entries open for SA stock show and rodeo

In less than three months, San Angelo's hottest annual event hits town for its 71st anniversary. Plans for the annual San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo are in full swing for the ten-day show, which takes place February 15-23, 2003.

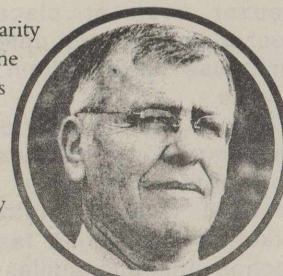
Livestock exhibitor handbooks and entry information are currently available. Creative arts exhibitor handbooks will be available by December 10. Act quickly, as deadlines for livestock, creative arts and youth scholarships are rapidly approaching.

Exhibitor handbooks and entry forms may be picked up at the stock show office at 200 W. 43rd Street in San Angelo, or by contacting the stock show office at (915) 653-7785.



"Public Service Ain't Public Relations"

As member-owned co-ops, we don't have the budgets for big Public Relations charity events - so we just take care of our communities and hope people notice. A lot of the time, we do the little things that Private Power Providers won't fool with because there's no PR value. Like putting up city Christmas lights. Or hanging a 60' x 30' flag for a dedication ceremony. Or lifting huge air conditioning units to the top of a local elementary school. Or rigging lights for the little league fields. Or... you get the idea. Often people come to us when their private power provider can't or won't help. They find we have a commitment to our communities. (We admit it; we're softies.)



Public service like ours doesn't make the TV news. We don't mind. Our first priority is our communities. That's why Concho Valley Electric Cooperative has decided not to opt in to deregulation, at least not until we're sure it's right for our members. The smart choice is to "wait and see". Maybe that's not good PR, but we think it's the right thing. And we're pretty good at doing the right thing. Just ask the little leaguers. For more information, visit our web site or call your local Smart Choice Cooperative.

SmartChoice
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Your Touchstone Energy Partner

www.smartchoicecoops.com

Concho Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Coleman County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Comanche Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Karnes Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Rio Grande Electric Co-op
Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Swisher Electric Cooperative, Inc.