

# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke & Sterling Counties

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Friday, December 2, 2005

## Robert Lee Christmas celebrations set for today

The opening of the Christmas season in Robert Lee is today, Friday, December 2, 2005. A number of local offices and businesses hold open house to serve refreshments and celebrate the season with their valued customers and friends.

The Coke County Courthouse will have an open house from 8 am to 1 pm. Robert Lee State Bank is having their open house from 9 am to 3 pm and Ivey Motor Company, Inc. will celebrate from 11 am to 3 pm. Other businesses and offices participating with open house celebrations include the Coke County Library, Robert Lee City Hall, Ash-Millican-Carson Real Estate, Kickin' Up Roses, This 'N That Shoppe, Key Feed Store, C & H Hardware, DJ's Merle Norman, Especially For You, Coke-Sterling Farm Bureau, and Super H Grocery.

Charlotte McCabe Northcutt donated a painting to the '64 Study Club to use as a fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund. The drawing for this painting will be at 2 pm at Robert Lee State Bank.

Santa Claus will be listening to children's Christmas wishes in front of the Coke County Courthouse at 3:30 pm this afternoon.

## Filing for elections begins today

The filing period for next year's primary election begins today, Friday, December 2, 2005, and will end Monday, January 2, 2006. Candidates wanting their names on the ballot need to file with their party chairperson - Patti Ivey, Democratic; and Kathy Pentecost, Republican.

In order to file for office, a person must have resided in that jurisdiction (precinct) for a minimum of six months prior to the filing deadline of January 2, 2006.

Offices on the ballot, current officials holding those offices, and the filing fees required include Roy Blair, County Judge, \$750; Bill

Wheat, County Commissioner, Precinct 2, \$750; George Snapp, County Commissioner, Precinct 4, \$750; Mary Grim, County/District Clerk, \$750; Phelan Wrinkle, County Treasurer, \$750; Joan Davis, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, \$375; and Grady Coulter, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2, \$375. Also on the ballot will be an election to fill the unexpired term of the County Tax Assessor-Collector vacated by Gayle Sisemore. Commissioners appointed Josie Dean to fill this position until an election could be held. The filing fee for this office is \$750.

## Bronte OES to hold bake sale

The Bronte Order of the Eastern Star Chapter will hold a bake sale Saturday, December 3, beginning at 8 am. The sale will be in front of Hall's Super Save on Main Street in downtown Bronte. The group will also be offering Rada Cutlery for sale - the perfect Christmas and wedding gift. Boxed sets will be available.

All proceeds from the sale will go toward scholarships and community projects.

## Coke County dance slated

The monthly dance for Coke County will be held at 7 pm Tuesday, December 6th, at the Robert Lee Rec Hall.

## Gospel singing set for Sunday

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

## Santa letter deadline set for December 6

Deadline for Letters to Santa Claus to be printed in this year's Christmas edition has been set for Tuesday, December 6. As in the past, we will go by the schools and pick up their Letters to Santa for inclusion in the Christmas paper on December 23. We will forward these letters straight to Santa after we get through typing them up for the paper.



Visit our area  
businesses during their

## Holiday Open House

celebrations.



As in the case of the Letters to Santa that are delivered to the post offices, we will pick them up, type them for the paper, and mail them on to Santa as fast as we can. Letters delivered to the post office must be there by December 20th to the included in this year's Christmas edition of the newspaper.

If you have any questions as to this year's Santa Letters deadlines or the holiday printing schedule, give us a call at 453-2433.

## Sorosis Study Club to host tour of homes

The Sorosis Study Club is hosting a "Holiday Tour of Homes" in Bronte Sunday, December 11, from 1 to 5 pm. There will be five homes on the tour: the Howell home at 323 S. Randall; the Richter home at 302 S. Washington; the Williams home at 439 Morrow Rd; the Cooper home at 424 S. State; and the McCutchen home at 515 Kickapoo Rd.

Tickets are available now by calling any of the Sorosis club members or you may call Glenn-Bivins Insurance at 473-6791. Tickets will also be available the day of the tour at any of the homes.

All proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Pool. Funds are still needed to complete all the necessary renovations.

## Bronte Christmas celebration set for December 15

The Bronte Chamber of Commerce has slated Christmas activities for the afternoon of Thursday, December 15.

Festivities will begin at 4 pm with a Christmas parade beginning at Bronte Health and Rehab Center and traveling through downtown Bronte. Santa Claus will be hearing children's Christmas wishes at Bronte City Hall immediately following the parade. A silent auction bake sale will be held at Bronte Volunteer Fire Department from 5 to 6 pm. The auction is benefiting the Christmas Stars, a program which assists needy community children.

## Christmas Greetings set for December 24

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 23rd issue.

Deadline for this year's greetings is Tuesday, December 20. For more information or to place an ad, contact the office at 453-2433.

## Renovations begin on Bronte swimming pool

On November 22, 2005, Judge Roy Blair signed the contracts with Atlantis Pool and Plastering out of Abilene to begin renovations on the Bronte Swimming Pool Project. Work is scheduled to begin on Monday, November 28 and should be completed in approximately 180 days.

## San Angelo Craft Fair set Dec. 3rd & 4th

The GSACG will be hosting their 31st annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 3rd and Sunday, December 4th in Wells Fargo Pavilion in San Angelo, located on the fairgrounds.

There will be free hourly door prizes. Crafts are hand made. The hours on Saturday are 10 am-6 pm and Sunday 12 noon til 5 pm.

Bring a can of food for the Food Bank and you will receive an extra door prize ticket. Admission is free.



**Local cookbook in national competition**

By Marilyn White

The First United Methodist Church of Robert Lee, has been notified that their cookbook "The Land of Mesquite, Prickly Pear and Blue Bonnets" has been selected as one of the top ten finalists in a National Cookbook competition. Three winners will be chosen from the ten finalists. Cash prizes will be awarded to each of the 3 winners.

The contest is from books published in 2004-2005. We have been told that there were hundreds of entries and we feel very honored to have made it to the finals. The judges will make a final decision by early January 2006. There will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize, and we would be happy with any of the three. We would, of course, really like to have 1st.

This cookbook was published as a fundraiser for our church. The profits to date have been used to remodel and update our restrooms. Our restrooms are now "Wheelchair Accessible". We are continuing to sell books and will re-order as needed.

We are grateful to all who have supported us in this endeavor. This has been a major project for our Church but would never have been a success without the support of the public.



**Letters to the Editor**

Dear Editor,

This may be a day late and a dollar short, but I'm thinking that I'm not the only one around here who operates that way!

At the Bronte Community Thanksgiving Service this year, special recognition and appreciation was given to a very important group of people. This group includes those who serve in law enforcement, on our Volunteer Fire Department,



**Big South Texas Buck!!!** Randi (Burrow) Hardesty proudly displays this magnificent 10 point buck she took with a compound bow on October 25, 2005. The 5 1/2 year old deer grossed a total of 161 6/8 points (Pope and Young). The big buck was taken at a distance of twenty yards in Webb County near Laredo, Texas.

Randi and her husband Troy manage a ten section game ranch near Encinal, Texas. She is a former resident of Robert Lee, and is the sister of Kimberly (Burrow) Spain of Robert Lee.

and in our East Coke County EMS. These heroes (and that is exactly what they are) deserve all the recognition they can receive and then some. They are servants in the truest sense of the word, often putting their lives on the line in order to meet the needs in someone else's life.

That reminds me of what Jesus said in John 15:13, "Greater love has no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends." These servant/heroes are ready to come to your assistance when you need them, even if it is inconvenient for them, no matter the time of the day or night. They and their families sacrifice a lot to make our community a better and safer place to live and raise our families. They encounter circumstances that are far from pleasant and often physically and emotionally stressful.

I for one, and I'm sure there are many more like me, want to let them know their sacrificial service is not unnoticed. I pray that God will bless

them and provide for their needs in ways we can't begin to imagine.

I also encourage everyone to take the time to personally express their gratitude to these fine folks and their families. More volunteers are always needed in the Fire Department and EMS; have you thought about becoming one of these heroes?

I am blessed in many ways by living in Bronte. Knowing that there are capable, compassionate people who willingly give of themselves to provide these necessary (and often taken for granted) services encourages me greatly.

Morris Johnson  
Bronte

Dear Bro. Morris,  
I, personally, want to thank you for your comments about our first responders. I also urge everyone in both Robert Lee and Bronte to consider volunteering their time and joining one of the fire departments or EMS services.

Thank you again,  
Melinda McCutchen

Dear Santa,  
Hope you're doing well.  
If you could swing it, here's what I would like this year:

1. A comfortable home in the country.
2. A big plot of recreational land to hunt and fish.
3. 100 head of cattle and a nice big ranch.
4. A good-sized stretch of farm land.
5. And some equipment to help me maintain all this.

Thanks so much! Tell Prancer I said "hi".

Yours Truly,  
Bob Phillips  
Tx Country Reporter

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18 pk. 12 oz. cans **\$11.99** Natural Light 30 pack **\$16.79**

Miller Lite • Regular or Light  
**Coors Beer**   
20 pk Bottles **\$13.59** Keystone Light 30 pack **\$16.79**

Shurfine Select Group  
**Canned Vegetables**  
  
**3<sup>14.5 - 15.25 oz.</sup> cans / \$1**

# BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS



**Eighth Grade Robotics Team Takes Win!** *The Bronte Junior High Eighth Grade Robotics team won first place in Division II (junior high) at the Region XV Robotics Contest held in San Angelo November 14. The team includes (from left) Shelbi Waller, Bill Miller, Rob Rosson, Crawford James and Kasey Glover.*



**Sixth Grade Robotics Team Takes Win!** *The Bronte Junior High Sixth Grade Robotics team won sixth place in Division II (junior high) at the Region XV Robotics Contest held in San Angelo November 14. The team includes Harley Wallace, Austin Mertz, Katie Austin, Kimberly Lee, and Mackenzie Jones.*

**Bronte students place at UIL Math/Science practice meets**

Bronte students have attended several Math/Science practice contests in the past few months. Students attending the Texas State Technical College practice meet in Sweetwater on October 22 were: Cody Wallace, 4th place Science, 10th grade; Justin Taylor, 4th place Calculator, 11th grade; Matthew Allen, 4th place Mathematics, 9th grade; and Eric Hendrickson, 4th place Science, 5th place Math, 11th grade. Received an Award for Top Physics student in small schools

Students from Bronte also attended "The Big Country Council of Teachers of Mathematics and Science" on the Abilene Christian University Campus in Abilene November 5. Those students attending and receiving awards were:

Wallace, and Austin Mertz Science, tied for 10th place; Kerwin Rawls, Science, tied for 5th place; Heath Richey, Science

8th grade - Ali Cortez, Calculator; Kasey Glover, Number Sense; Jacob Scott, Number Sense, Science

9th grade - Matt Allen, Mathematics, 15th place; Ty Mackey, Mathematics, 12th place; Crystal Minjarez, Calculator

10th grade - Casey Harris, Number Sense, Math, Science; Holly Huskerson, Number Sense, Math; C. J. McClure, Number Sense, Calculator, Math, Science; Paul McConnell, Science, placed 6th and placed 2nd Small Schools Top Biology; C.W. Wallace, Science, placed 10th and tied for 2nd Top Physics Small Schools

11th grade - Eric Hendrickson, Number Sense, Math, Science, placed 16th; Justin Taylor, Calculator, placed 13th

12th grade - Lillian

*Continued next page*

**TCEA Region XV Robotics competition held in San Angelo**

On Monday, November 14, 2005, the Robotics Teams from Bronte traveled to the San Angelo Convention Center to compete in the Region XV Robotics Contest sponsored by the Region 15 Educational Service Center. There were 16 Division I High School Teams and 13 Division II Junior High School Teams.

The 8th grade team with Rob Rosson, Bill Miller, Crawford James, Shelbi Waller and Kasey Glover won 1st place in Division II Robotics and received a new robotics kit and blue rosette ribbons. The 6th grade team with Katie Austin, Kimberly Lee, Mackenzie Jones, Harley Wallace, and Austin Mertz placed 6th in Division II receiving ribbons, also.

All of the teams had different and unique robots that performed well. This is the second year for this competition. There is a STATE competition in Austin February 6th, for any team that wants to attend.

Robotic team members included:

Division I - High School

Team #1 - 10th Grade - Paul McConnell, Casey Harris, Holly Huskerson, Gus Saunders, and Stephanie Flores

Team #2 - 9th Grade - Will Macon, Sam Rawlings, Matt Allen, and Reese Springer

Team #3 - 9th Grade - Geoffrey Ehl; Jessi England;

Ty Mackey; and Nicole Reed Division II - Junior High/Elementary

Team #4 - 8th Grade - Rob Rosson, Bill Miller; Crawford James; Shelbi Waller, and Kasey Glover

Team #5 - 7th Grade - Chase Harris, Heath Richey, Kelsey Sedden, Ally Franco, and Terron Charles

Team #6 - 6th Grade - Katie Austin, Kimberly Lee, Mackenzie Jones, Harley

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**School Menu**



**Breakfast**

**Monday, Dec. 5**

Cereal, pineapple tidbits, toast, jelly, milk

**Tuesday, Dec. 6**

Sausage, assorted juice, biscuit, jelly, milk

**Wed., Dec. 7**

French toast sticks, assorted juice, syrup, milk

**Thurs., Dec. 8**

Pop tart, applesauce, toast, jelly, milk

**Friday, Dec. 9**

Sausage roll, assorted juice, milk

**Lunch**

**Monday, Dec. 5**

Chicken nugget, gravy, potatoes, green beans, applesauce, roll, milk

**Tuesday, Dec. 6**

Frito pie, chili & cheese, tossed salad, corn, corn chips, apple crisp, milk

**Wed., Dec. 7**

Taco salad with cheese, lettuce, tomato, pinto beans, Spanish rice, chips, fruit jello, milk

**Thurs., Dec. 8**

Hot dogs, chili & cheese, tator tots, pork & beans, orange half, bun, sugar cookies, milk

**Friday, Dec. 9**

Sub. sandwich, ham & cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickle, apple, bun, chips, ice cream cup, milk

McMullan, Mathematics; Rebecca Rawlings, Science, tied for 4th Top Physics in Small Schools; Sarah Basquez, Science

Bronte ISD Science Team placed 7th overall. The Math and Science Teams placed 10th overall in the High School Sweepstakes Award.

**Bronte Jr. High boys basketball results**

On November 14th, the Bronte 7th grade boys defeated Irion County at Mertzon by a score of 48-25. Scorers: Heath Richey 16; Kerwin Rawls 10; Dakota Rawls 11; Hadley Holland 6; Arlis McMullan 3; and Thomas Foster 2.

On the 21st, the jr. high boys basketball team defeated Water Valley 48-8. Scorers: Kerwin Rawls 14; Dakota Rawls 12; Heath Richey 11; Hadley Holland 4; Skyler York 3; Terron Charles 2 and Jake Cotter 2.

The 7th grade boys basketball team has a 2-0 record.

On November 14, the Bronte 8th grade boys basketball team defeated Irion County 33-22. Scorers: Bill Miller 2; Kolten Pena 7; Louie Martinez 8; Rob Rosson 10; Jacob Scott 2; Haydan White 2; and Wes Suter 2.

In the Bronte Boys Tournament on the 17th, Bronte was defeated by Robert Lee 34-22. Scorers: Kolten Pena 3; Louie Martinez 1; Jacob Scott 4; Rob Rosson 12; and Wes Suter 2.

The Bronte 8th grade boys basketball team then defeated Eden 41-17. Scorers: Matthew Halfacre 6; Kolten Pena 5; Louie Martinez 2; Jacob Scott 4; Rob Rosson 21; Tyler Riney 2; and Wes Suter 2.

Bronte lost to Sterling City by a score of 31-22. Scorers: Louie Martinez 2; Jacob Scott 8; Rob Rosson 10; and Hayden White 2.

On the 21st, Bronte defeated Eden 39-25. Scorers: Audie Miller 2; Matthew Halfacre 3; Kolten Pena 6; Louie Martinez 5; Jacob Scott 1; Rob Rosson 18; Hayden White 2, and Wes Suter 2.

**Bronte Community Planning session held November 17**

A Bronte Community Planning session was held Thursday evening, November 17, at the Bronte ISD Library.

Michael Bohensky introduced Mary Kay Kuss of the Concho Valley Workforce Development Board-Planning & Resource Development Department. Mary Kay provided background information on the Workforce Board and the Planning & Resource Development Department.

The facilitator provided a review of the previous Community Visioning session as well as the Roadmap to Success where it was noted that with the presentation

of the Vision Statement, the community will have accomplished Mile Markers One, Two, Three and Four.

Planning participants were provided a copy of the Vision Statement which reads:

*The community of Bronte is dedicated to upholding a rich heritage and high quality of living, embracing traditional rural and religious values. Our citizens are passionate about bridging cultural and generational differences to enhance community growth.*

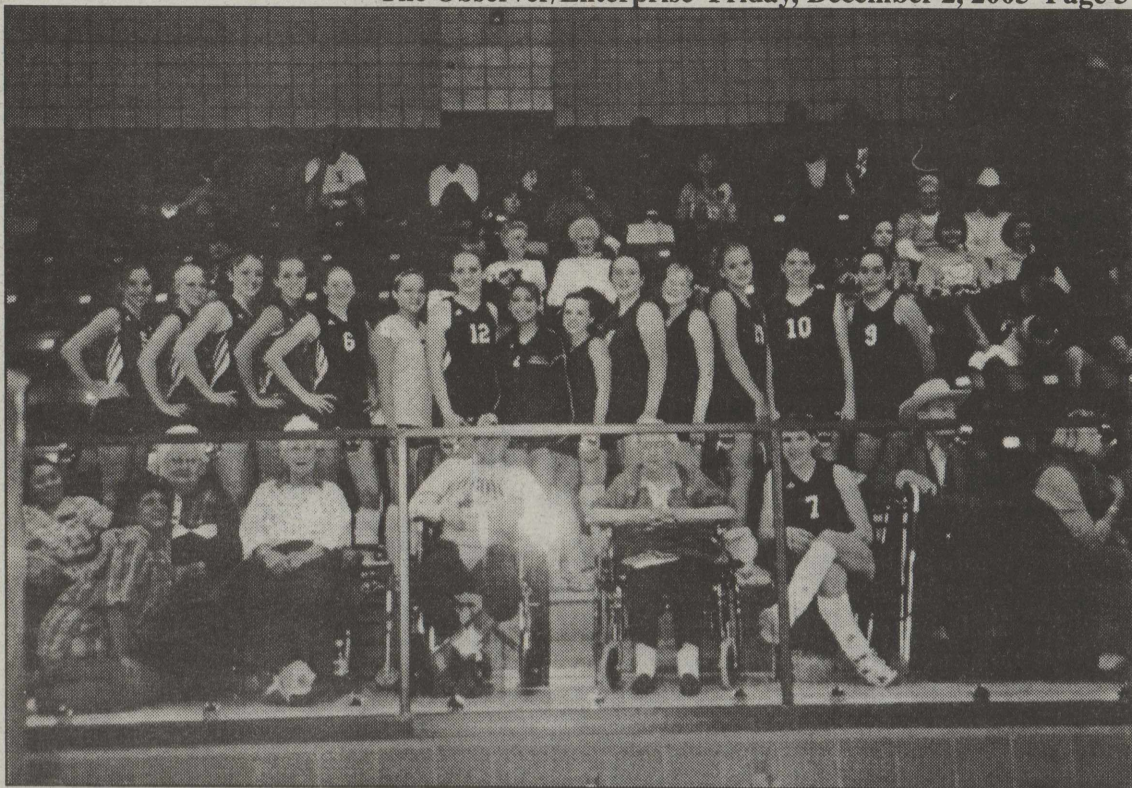
*Bronte strives to create a self-sufficient community that is well-established in community pride by securing a safe, nurturing family environment; superior education; quality healthcare; diverse cultural and recreational amenities; thriving local businesses; and flourishing job opportunities. Building upon these assets, Bronte assures a secure quality of life through the affordable amenities of housing, exceptional child care, and strong, stable services including EMS, volunteer Fire Department, and law enforcement.*

Upon completion of the participants' review, the Vision Statement was ratified unanimously by participants present.

The facilitator provided handouts of Planning to Reach Your Destination where each of the four groups (by table) discussed the items listed under "Hopes/Aspirations" and "Challenges" and scored each item according to the following: 0 Indicates Little Change Possible; 5 Indicates Some Change Possible; 10 Indicates Optimistic that Change will Happen

After each table had scored their document, the facilitator asked each table to provide their list of items that indicated little change was possible. Under "Hopes/Aspirations," it was agreed that "Incentives for young adults to return to Bronte" was the only item where little change was possible. Under "Challenges," it was agreed that the following items had the possibility of little change: Better Paying Jobs, Parenting Skills, Conformist Mentality, Local/Regional/State Politics and Limited Volunteer Pool.

The facilitator moved on to asking each table to provide their list of items where they indicated optimism that change will happen. Under "Hopes/Aspirations," the following items were provided: School Pride (where 3 of 5 tables scored a 10); Drug-Free Community; Park/Pool Restoration; Retain/Expand Businesses (where 3 tables of 5 scored a 10); Establish New Business and Jobs (where 3 tables of 5 scored a 10); Housing Renovation Program; Centennial Celebration (2007); Additional Youth Activities; Downtown Revitalization;



**A Meeting of the Generations!** In late October, a group of Bronte Health and Rehab Center residents and staff attended a volleyball game at the new Bronte ISD gym and were able to meet this year's Lady Longhorns.

Community Wide Clean-Up; Provide Healthcare; Hire Community Development Director; and Affordable New Housing (where 3 of 5 tables scored this a 5).

Upon further discussion, Housing Renovation Program and Centennial Celebration was removed from the list due to the fact that the City is progressing in housing renovation currently, the Centennial Celebration needs to be planned now for 2007, and a plan is developed for some future event. The Park/Pool Restoration was maintained on the list although this is also an area already in progress. It was maintained on the list because the renovations are to be conducted in Phases and planning of each phase needs to continue. Affordable New Housing was discussed at length (where 3 of 5 tables scored this a 5). The outcome of the discussion was that "Affordable New" should be removed whereby "Housing" can incorporate renovation, affordable, revitalization, rent, own, etc... within a plan document to determine a holistic approach.

Under "Challenges," the following items were identified where the groups were optimistic that change will happen: Support for Local Business; Funding Resources, Local Communication, Telecommunications, and Lack of VFD Equipment. Upon further discussion, "Telecommunications" was removed from the list as it was identified that two companies provide high-speed Internet and Cellular One has erected a new tower in the Bronte area whereby cell phone connectivity has improved.

The last area looked at was "Hopes/Aspirations" where scoring was a 5 with the following on the list: Child Care and Scholarships for Every Graduate. It was noted that individuals or personal people provide childcare in Bronte but there are not any

childcare centers. The group discussed the issues with maintaining a childcare center where the operator would have to be able to make a profit and depend upon community members to utilize the childcare. It was noted that children in Bronte tend to start school at an early age (3 and 4) and that the school operates their own child care for their employees. It was also noted, due to the legal structure, that the child care for school employees could not be opened to the public. The facilitator noted that research supporting a childcare center would allow the community to add this to their plan as a business to target. Mr. Williams discussed the Coke County Foundation and their projects. The Foundation has about \$160,000 for the new arena

but needs to double that amount and the Foundation is also looking at setting up an endowment to provide scholarships.

Due to the time, the facilitator brought the session to a close by announcing the next meeting will focus on goals, objectives, strategies, action plans and evaluation. The group agreed the next meeting date will be Thursday, January 5, 2006, from 5:30-7:30 in the school library.

**Kickapoo water board sets election**

Coke County Kickapoo Water Control and Improvement District #1 will hold an election on January 10, 2006, for the purpose of electing two directors. Directors filing for re-election to the board are Bob Ragsdale and Jack Corley. The election will be held at Bronte City Hall.

*Unwrapping the Gift*  
a celebration of Christmas  
at Bronte's First Baptist Church

Schedule of Special Services	
December 4, 6:00 p.m.	"Unwrapping God's Love"
December 11, 6:00 p.m.	"Unwrapping God's Intimacy"
December 18, 10:55 a.m.	"Unwrapping God's Peace"
December 18, 6:00 p.m.	Candlelight Worship
December 25, 10:00 a.m.	"Unwrapping God's Purpose"

**Everyone Welcome!**  
for more info:  
473-2331

*"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"*  
2 Corinthians 9:15

# ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS

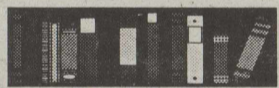


**RLHS Sophomore Class Officers!** The Sophomore class of RLHS elected the following students as their class officers: President, Chase Roe; Vice President, Molly Burns; Secretary, Kasie Skinner, Reporter, Anna Rojas; and Treasurer, Briana Longoria. Sophomore class sponsors are Paul Cotton, Tammy Roe, and Sandy Sawyer.

## Robert Lee ISD robotics team fundraiser slated

The RL robotics team is selling Krispy Kreme Donuts from November 30 to December 7 to raise money for state competition. Donuts will be in Robert Lee, available for pickup December 12. Please contact Kelly Beuschel at RLHS with any questions or orders.

## School Menu



### Breakfast

- Monday, Dec. 5**  
Juice, donut, cereal, milk
- Tuesday, Dec. 6**  
Juice, pop tart, cereal, milk
- Wed., Dec. 7**  
Juice, muffin, cereal, milk
- Thurs., Dec. 8**  
Juice, pancake & sausage on stick, cereal, milk
- Friday, Dec. 9**  
Juice, breakfast pizza, cereal, milk

### Lunch

- Monday, Dec. 5**  
Rib-b-ques, mac & cheese, green beans, rolls, pears, milk
- Tuesday, Dec. 6**  
Steakfingers, gravy, creamed potatoes, peas, sliced bread, fruit cocktail, milk
- Wed., Dec. 7**  
Frito pie, cheese, corn, French fries, fruit, milk
- Thurs., Dec. 8**  
Fajitas, salad, Spanish rice, pinto beans, pudding, milk
- Friday, Dec. 9**  
Hamburger, salad, pickles, baked chips, peaches, milk

## Robert Lee School Awards

RLHS sent in a couple of omissions from the 2nd Six Weeks Awards.

### Perfect Attendance

#### 9th grade

Mason Ross

### A/B Honor Roll

#### 10th grade

Ashley Sawyer

### RLJH boys basketball results

The Robert Lee Jr. High "A" boys basketball team played Eden on Nov. 28th and won 40-26. Scoring for Robert Lee were Logan Philley 14 points, Ivan Landeros 2 points, Blake Millican 10 points, Cayetano Carrera 2 points, Cody Brosh 6 points, and Stetson Nesbit 6 points.

### Steers All District football selections made

Offensive MVP, Josh Gallegos, Freshman. All Stars, Brandon Soliz, Senior.

#### 1st team

Spreadback, Josh Gallegos, Freshman; RB, Brandon Soliz, Senior; TE, Josh Conner, Senior; WR, Cameron Hodge, Soph; Line, Brody Dillard, Soph; LB, Josh Conner, Senior; CB, Cameron Hodge, Soph

#### 2nd team

QB, Brody Dillard, Soph; Center, Eleasar Vera, Junior; WR, Taylor Percifull, Soph; Kicker, Brandon Soliz, Senior; Line, Chase Roe, Soph; CB, Brandon Soliz, Senior

### Steers basketball results told

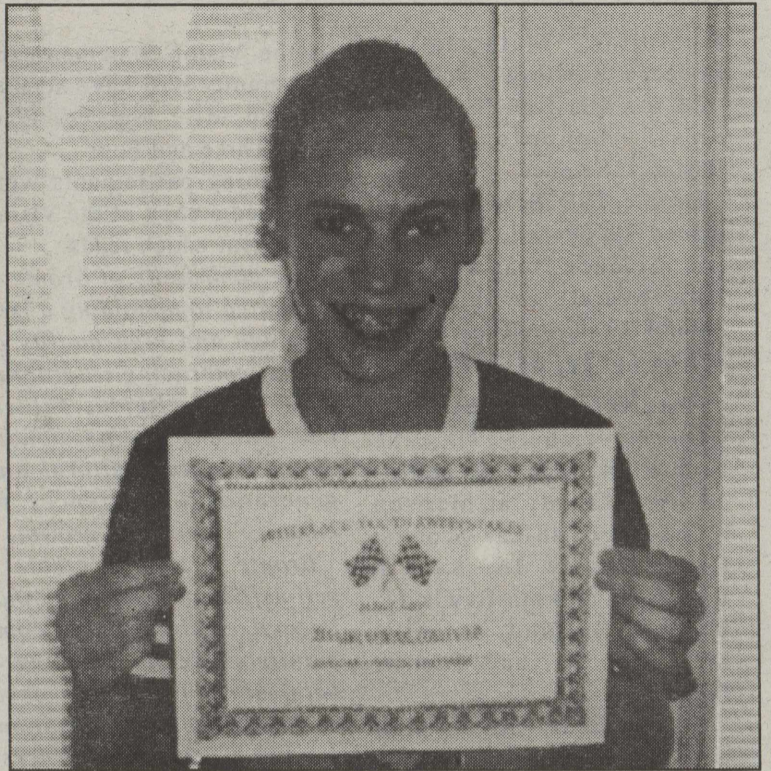
On the 18th, the Steers varsity lost to Roscoe 62-40. Scorers: Josh Gallegos 2; Taylor Percifull 9; Chris Torres 4; Cameron Hodge 6, Brandon Soliz 9; Josh Conner

2; Lance Millican 2; and Chase Roe 6.

The Roscoe JV defeated the Steers JV 51-30. Scorers: Michael Rodriguez 5; Jeremy Martinez 4; Luke Thurman 5; Johnathan Pagan 16.

### Fish populations improving

Fish populations are increasing at District reservoirs for a variety of reasons and, in the absence of any of the devastating Golden Algae fish kills, fishing conditions are showing steady improvement. Lake J.B. Thomas and the O.H. Ivie Reservoir were not affected by algae and fishing



**Sawyer Receives Sweepstakes Points!** Ashley Sawyer has been awarded 10th place in the 2004-2005 Youth Sweepstakes Points for Mini-Lop Rabbits. She attended twenty-three shows with a total of 7,266 points. Sweepstakes points are awarded to exhibitors who are members of the Mini-Lop Rabbit Club of America (MLRCA) at shows sanctioned by the MLRCA. Each sweepstakes period runs from June 1 to May 31 of the next year. This is quite an achievement since Ashley is the only youth in District 4 (Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Colorado) to win a coveted Top 10 spot. Ashley is a member of Coke County 4-H and Robert Lee FFA.

has been seasonably slow but stable overall. Fish populations at Lake Thomas have shown some impact from low water levels caused by drought. Recent inflows have brought it to its highest level in more than 10 years. According to Thomas Superintendent Neal Humphrey, black bass action has been slow and catches of white bass, good through much of the summer and early fall, are slowing down. He reported some large flathead catfish up to 63 pounds caught at the lake this fall but conditions should improve next summer due to good

spawns at the lake. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department stocked Lake Thomas with 195,000 large mouth bass in 2004 as part of the agency's statewide reservoir management plan according to the agency report last year. According to Assistant Biologist Jason Henegar from the Lubbock TPWD office, they have not conducted recent sampling to check fish populations. The 2004 sampling showed that low water levels from the

Continued next page

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To The  
**COKE COUNTY VOTERS**  
I am announcing my candidacy for re-election to the Coke County Treasurer's office. I would appreciate your support in the March Primary.

Thank You  
Phelan Wrinkle

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Phelan Wrinkle, PO Box 815, Robert Lee, TX 76945.

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extended drought have impacted sport fish species in numbers and growth rates but Henegar expects the lake to show improvement soon.

"With the increase in water level during 2005, the fishery should improve with the addition of much needed habitat for all fish species," Henegar said. "The increase in water level will provide new flooded terrestrial vegetation that will be used as spawning areas during the spring by adult fish and for protection and nursery habitat for fry (newly spawned fish) during the summer."

At the E.V. Spence Reservoir, the absence of fish kills and restocking activities by the TPWD are contributing to a substantial recovery of fish populations, according to Mandy Scott, Assistant Biologist in the San Angelo office.

"It has been awhile since we recorded any toxicity there," said Scott. "Things are really looking up for this lake. It appears that the fingerlings we stocked are growing quickly and showing up in fairly good numbers in our electrofishing sample."

Electrofishing is effective for measuring and weighing bass, shad and sunfish. TPWD plans to use trap nets in the coming weeks to sample for crappie. TPWD has stocked Spence with small numbers of adult White Crappie and more than 888,000 fingerlings including Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass and Striped Bass in the wake of major fish kills that began in 2001.

Golden Algae is always present in stock tanks and in reservoirs, but it is held in check when healthy populations of red and green alga are competing for the food supply. Golden alga blooms often occur without toxicity or serious fish kills.

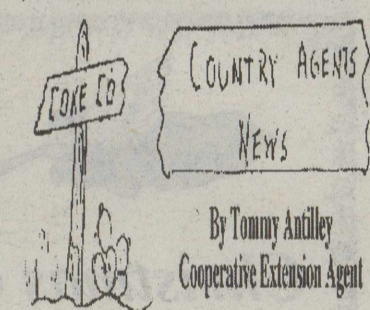
According to the TPWD website, the problems happen when some combinations of triggers come together to kill or severely limit the competing alga species. Golden Alga becomes so dominant it turns large areas of the water golden, decreases sunlight available to the water and uses up the oxygen. The triggers may include big temperature swings, onset of cold temperatures, reductions in the hours of sunlight due to cloudy weather and rising saline content of the water. A minor bloom may kill or harm some fish, but the serious kills result when the goldens increase dramatically and produce toxins that coat fish gills, resulting in massive kills.

These were the kind of kills that occurred at the Spence Reservoir in the fall of 2001 and spring of 2002, devastating the populations of bait and game fish. Mild, isolated kills

have been sporadically recorded since that time, primarily on the Colorado River rather than in the body of the reservoir. CRMWD Water Quality Specialist Wendell Barber, who is responsible for monitoring Golden Algae in District reservoirs, says the summer of 2003 seems to have been the turning point for the Spence Reservoir.

"We lost 2.2 million fish from Spence in October 2001. The lake was so low from drought that the algae were able to multiply across the whole basin and the fish had nowhere to go to get away," Barber said. "We continued to have blooms and smaller kills in the basin, but there weren't a lot of fish left to kill. The situation didn't change much until the reservoir had excellent inflows in June 2003 and that seemed to be a turning point for us."

He pointed out that water quality and quantity for the Spence Reservoir improved dramatically as the reservoir continued to receive inflows through 2004-2005. He credited TPWD efforts, declining salinity and expansion of the lake waters in the basin as primary elements that are helping fish populations recover along with the drought-beleaguered reservoir. Scott agreed with Barber's assessment. As long as water quality and quantity remain adequate and the lake stays free of golden alga toxicity, she said she expects the reservoir's fish population to fully recover in two or three years.



**Vegetation Management 5 Hour CEU Course set**

There will be a 5 hour CEU course for pesticide license recertification held on December 6, at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in San Angelo, which is located on Highway 87 north of San Angelo. Registration begins at 8:00 am with a \$5 charge for lunch.

Topics to be discussed are Laws and Regulations by Cory Pence, TDA; Common Mistakes of Herbicide Application by Allan McGinty, Extension range specialist; Right-of-Way Plant Identification and Control, Charles Anderson, NRCS specialist; Off-Target Herbicide Injury, John Begnaud, Tom Green CEA; Bees and Wasps, Chris Sansone, Extension entomologist followed by CEU certificates.

**Small Grain Forage Test**

We have planted a small grain forage test plot on Phelan Wrinkle's farm just north of Robert Lee on the Sanco road. The plot begins on the south end of the fields with two drill widths of Cutter wheat, two widths of Abilene Ag Experimental wheat, two widths of Longhorn wheat, two widths of Sturdy 2K wheat and three widths of Elbon Rye. North of the driveway beginning on the south end is three widths of Elbon Rye, three widths of Tamcale 5019 triticale, two widths of Horizon 314 oats and two widths of Walken oats.

This plot was sown on November 3 with the assistance of the Farm Bureau directors Bobby Roberts, John Stephens and Sutton Page. The plot was fertilized with 200 pounds of 25-10-0 and 13 Sulphur per acre and the wheat was sown at 70# per acre and oats at 54# per acre.

Forage samples will be taken for each variety in early, mid and late spring to show how many total pounds of forage will be produced by each variety. Producers are welcome to go by and look at the plots as they progress during the growing season.

**Drennan wins 4-H award**

Carson Drennan of Welch was recognized as winner of the 2005 Dawson County Gold Star Award at the District II 4-H Gold Star Awards Banquet held November 21 at Texas Tech in Lubbock.

Carson, who currently serves as 1st Vice-president of the Welch 4-H Club and Dawson County Council Delegate has been involved in numerous projects and competed on the county, district, and state levels in Food and Nutrition, Shooting Sports Target, Record Book, Lambs and Goats. He has been honored as Junior II Savings Bond winner, as well as several Goat and Lamb Showmanship awards.

Carson is a sophomore at Dawson I.S.D. where he participates in football, basketball, one act play and UIL, track and golf. He is secretary of the Dawson FFA chapter. He has been selected by Who's Who Among American High School Students, United States Achievement Academy National Agricultural Award, and National Honor Roll.

Carson is the son of Mindi (McCabe) and Grant Drennan of Welch. His grandparents are Joyce and Louie Drennan of Welch, Dolores and Ray Seal of Robert Lee and the late Fred "Twister" McCabe, Jr. and great-grandmother Jeauldene "Toad" Medlin of Welch.



Carson Drennan

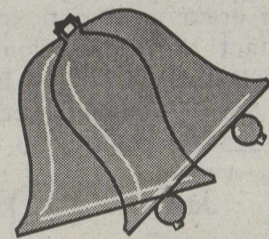
**FSA accepting applications for emergency loans**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is now accepting applications for Emergency Farm Loans resulting from damages and losses caused by hail, high winds, and a tornado that occurred on May 31, 2005.

Sterling County and Coke County have been designated as contiguous disaster counties.

Farmers who want to apply for emergency loans need to submit their applications as soon as possible. The deadline for applications is 3/01/2006.

Generally, farmers who have lost 30 percent of their production due to designated disaster are eligible for emergency loans. The FSA office is located at 103 W. Florida Avenue in Sweetwater, TX, 325/236-6337.



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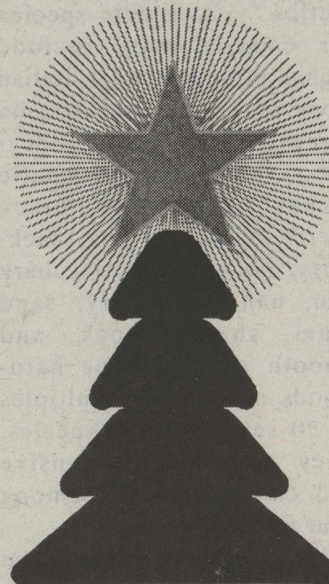
**Christmas Open House**

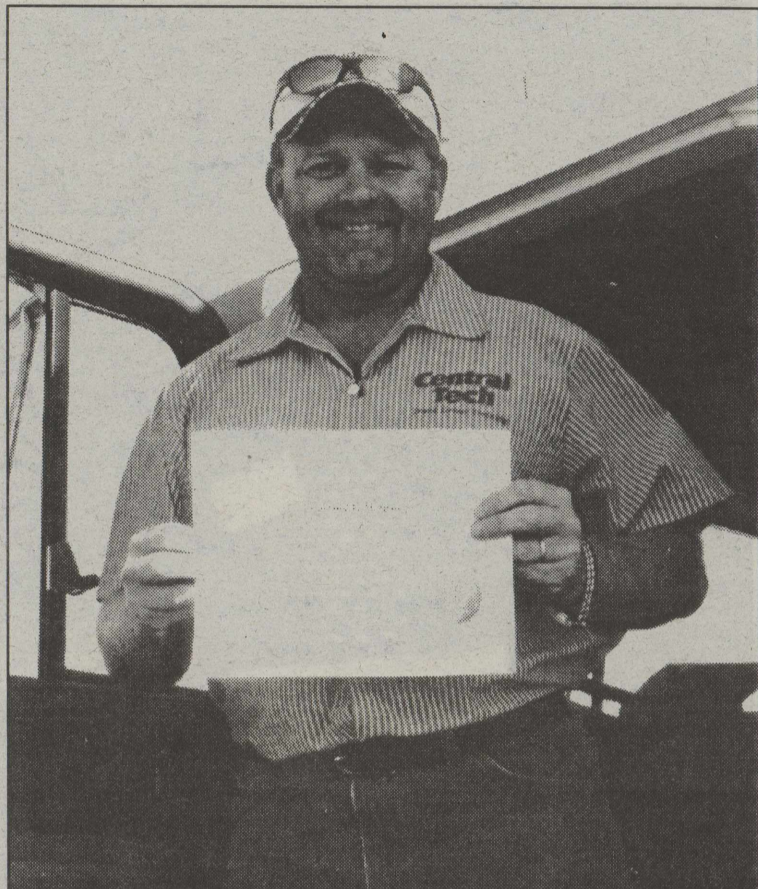
*Friday*

*December 2*

*11 am to 3 pm*

**453-4561**





**Morgan Graduates in Oklahoma!** Doby Morgan graduated from Central Tech in Drumright, Oklahoma, on November 18, 2005. He received his CDL with Hazmat Endorsement and tied for Valedictorian of his class with a 97 average. Doby is employed by SUNOCO Logistics. He and his wife, Carrie (Hoyt), make their home in Bronte.

**Forest Service offers high quality, low-cost 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.

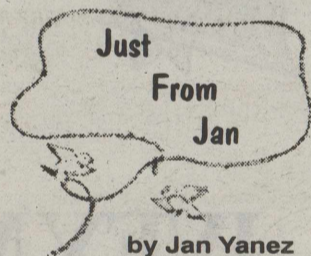
"Windbreaks are trees and shrubs systematically planted adjacent to fields, home-steads, or feedlots as a barrier to reduce or redirect the wind," Fewin explains. "They create permanent, natural protection and habitat for wildlife, reduce erosion, and increase land value and aesthetics." Available species for Coke County include afghan pine, red cedar, Italian stone pine, live oak, Arizona cypress, pinyon pine, baldcypress, arborvitae, aromatic (skunkbush) sumac, black cherry, chinkapin oak, hackberry, honeylocust, lacebark elm, nanking cherry, sand plum, shumard oak, and smooth sumac. The hardwoods are sold in multiples of 50 seedlings per species. They are very inexpensive and can be divided among your neighbors.

Wildlife packets for habitat establishment also are avail-

able. 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 30, 2006 and will be delivered on Thursday, February 9, 2006.

To order windbreak trees contact the Coke County SWCD located at 214 East 7th Street in Robert Lee or call 325-453-2623, ext. 3.



by Jan Yanez  
Cooperative  
Extension Agent  
**Holiday Food  
Safety Tips**

It's that time of the year again - holidays, family gatherings, celebrations and, of course, lots and lots of food! You've planned what's on the menu and who will bring which dish. But have you thought about what you'll do make sure that dinner is not only festive, but safe? No one wants to remember the holiday meal where everyone got sick from the food!

You can help make sure that your guests leave with only delicious memories of your holiday dinner together.

Take a moment to read the Holiday Food Safety Tips below, and make the guidelines a part of your meal preparation. Happy Holidays!

1. Keep hands and food contact surfaces clean; wash them often. Always wash your hands with warm, soapy water before and after handling raw foods, after using the toilet, after changing diapers and after handling pets. Dry hands with a clean, single-use paper towel. People with cuts or skin infections on their hands should not prepare food. Thoroughly clean all work surfaces, utensils and dishes with hot soapy water, and rinse with hot water before and after each use. Knives, cutting boards and meat grinders should be washed thoroughly (in the dishwasher, for example) before using them for other foods.

2. Keep foods separate; don't cross contaminate. Always wash fruits and vegetables in clean sinks, and keep fruits and vegetables away from raw meats, poultry, eggs, fish and any other raw animal product. When tasting food, ladle a small amount of it into a small dish and taste with a clean spoon. Remove the dish and spoon from the area and clean when finished.

3. Refrigerate foods promptly. Refrigerate or freeze turkey and other meats promptly after purchase. Prevent meat juices from spilling on and contaminating other foods or surfaces both at the market and at home. Refrigeration should be kept at 41 degrees or colder. Thaw a frozen turkey inside the refrigerator in its original wrapping. Thawing a moderate-sized turkey in this manner may take two to four days. If time does not permit a gradual thaw, place the frozen turkey in a watertight wrapper and immerse in cold -- not hot or warm -- water until the meat is pliable. Change the water every half-hour.

4. Cook foods to proper temperatures. Rinse the turkey thoroughly in cold water and drain well before cooking. Stuffing should be cooked separately. Turkey should be placed immediately in a preheated oven set no lower than 325 degrees. Turkey and other poultry should be cooked to an internal temperature of 180 degrees to kill pathogens that may be present, and the stuffing must reach 165 degrees. Always use a meat thermometer to ensure that meat is

thoroughly cooked. To accurately measure the temperature, insert a thermometer in the thickest part of the turkey thigh, but not against the bone. Turkey meat is thoroughly cooked when the hip joint moves easily and the juices run clear -- not pink. Steaks and roasts should be cooked to at least 145 degrees, and ground meat should be cooked to at least 160 degrees. When leftovers are eaten hot, they should be heated to at least 165 degrees or until hot and steaming throughout. Foods cooked or reheated in microwaves should be stirred or turned occasionally to ensure that all parts of the food are thoroughly cooked or heated. If using frozen meat, first microwave the meat until completely thawed, then follow by cooking. If microwaving is not possible, then allow at least one-and-a-half times the usual cooking time to ensure the meat is sufficiently cooked throughout.

5. Refrigerate leftovers. Turkey should be refrigerated one of two ways: within two hours after it is cooked; or right after cooking, the turkey should be de-boned, sliced or pulled into pieces no more than 2 1/2 inches thick and refrigerated in shallow containers. Store the meat, stuffing and stock in separate containers in the refrigerator or freezer. Do not eat leftover meat that has been refrigerated for longer than four days or eat leftover stuffing or gravy that has been refrigerated for longer than two days. If properly wrapped, leftover meat may

be safely consumed after being frozen for one to three months. Keep all cream, custard and meringue pies, and any other foods with custard filling, refrigerated except when being served.

**FINANCIAL FOCUS**

With Tommy Neal of Edward Jones in San Angelo & Barry D. Jackson of Edward Jones in Ballinger.

**Time to think about year-end tax tips**

Now that it's December, you're probably busy with family gatherings and holiday celebrations. Still, try to find some time to think about a non-holiday topic: taxes. You may have until April 17, 2006, to file your taxes, but you only have until the end of the year to make some moves that could benefit your tax situation-so you'll need to take action soon.

Here are some suggestions to consider:

\* **Maximize your retirement account contributions.** If you haven't "maxed out" on your 401(k), see if your employer will allow you to make additional contributions before year-end. For 2005, you can contribute up to \$14,000 (or \$18,000 if you're over 50 years old). You typically fund your 401(k) with pre-tax dollars, so, the more you contribute, the lower your taxable income.

Continued next page

Join us for our  
**Christmas Open House**  
**Friday, December 2, 2005**  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

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**\* Donate appreciated securities to charities** - If you have stocks that have appreciated greatly over the years, you might want to donate some shares to charitable organizations. Suppose, for instance, that you bought shares of XYZ stock for \$250, and that they are now worth \$1,000. If you were to give these shares to a charitable group, and you are in the 28 percent tax bracket, you would get a \$280 tax deduction, based on the shares' current market value. Furthermore, because you are not selling the shares, you will avoid having to pay any capital gains taxes on your \$750 profit.

**\* Sell your "losers"** - Did any of your stocks lose value in 2005? If so, you may want to sell some of them to take the tax losses. If these losses exceeded your capital gains from selling appreciated stocks, you can deduct up to \$3,000 (or \$1,500 for married couples filling separately) against your other income, reducing the amount on which you must pay taxes. And if you lost more than \$3,000, you can carry over the excess into subsequent years. Consider buying "big-ticket" items now - If you are planning on buying a car, boat or other "big-ticket" item, you may want to do so before the end of the year. If the total sales tax is more than your state or local income taxes, you can choose to deduct any of these taxes on your 2005 federal tax return - but this is the last year in which this benefit will be offered.

**\* Defer income when possible** - If you're self-employed, defer billing until late December. If you work for a company, and you're scheduled to get a year-end bonus, see if you can put it off until January.

**\* Delay exercising non-qualified stock options** - You will be taxed on any non-qualified stock options you exercise, so you may want to delay exercising them until next year. (Before you make this decision, though, you'll want to evaluate the price and prospects of the stock on which you hold an option. If you hold an option too long, you will eventually be forced to exercise it; if the stock price is down at that point, you might not make much of a profit - and in a "worst-case" scenario, your option could become worthless.)

If you are unsure about which of these suggestions may be appropriate for your individual situation, see your tax adviser. But don't wait too long - 2006 will be here before you know it.

**Only 23 days  
'til  
Christmas!**

### Think Texas

By Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs

Have some hard-to-shop for folks on your buying list this holiday season? Look for unique gifts grown and made in Texas. From handmade leather cowboy boots and designer denims to decorative tins of flavored pecans and gift packs of sweet and spicy salsa, you'll run out of people long before you run out of ideas. And you'll have the extra bonus of knowing your dollars are supporting Texas producers and staying here at home.

Texas agriculture produces and manufactures so many wonderful products - everything from wine to mohair to meats. You're bound to find something to please everyone.

Anyone who finds a luxurious mohair coat under the tree will be pleased. Angora goats raised on the Edwards Plateau provide the long, silky natural fiber used to make a luxury fabric for high-end coats, suits, sweaters and other cool-weather garments. Texas is the nation's No. 1 producer of mohair, supplying about 90 percent of all the mohair in the country.

For the wine lover on your list, select a bottle of Texas wine and combine it with a variety of cheeses and chocolates. Texas has a growing wine industry and is currently the country's fifth-leading wine-producing state. Other food ideas include grapefruits, oranges, honey and pecans. To make sure your gift arrives in time, order fruit going out of state by Dec. 1.

Gourmet meats come in a variety of choices, and Texas is known for its quality. Mesquite-smoked boneless beef tenderloin seasoned with



**Bryan Celebrates 93rd Birthday!** Helping Wilson Bryan (front row, left) celebrate his 93rd birthday were several members of his family. They included his "younger" brother, 88 year old Frank Dean Bryan (front row, right) from Fortuna, California; (back row, from left) nephew Pat Bryan and wife Gayle of Bellevue, Washington; daughter, Thelma Jo Hinnard and son, Richard Bryan of Robert Lee. Numerous other relatives were in attendance at the celebration. Mr. Bryan is recovering from a broken hip and enjoyed having all of his family here to help celebrate his birthday.

ground peppers and herbs, smoked loin of wild boar, venison jerky and a wide range of domestic smoked meats are available as gifts for the most discriminating food lovers.

For more shopping information on Texas products visit the GO TEXAN Web site at [www.gotexan.org](http://www.gotexan.org).

#### 'Tis the season to be distracted

Between the eggnog lattes and gift exchanges, the distractions at work tend to multiply as the holidays approach. It's no surprise then that 44 % of executives polled recently said

employees are less productive the week before a major holiday. The good news is there are some people who pick up the slack - 23% of managers surveyed said they believe workers are more productive during these times.

The national poll includes responses from 150 senior executives - including those from human resources, finance and marketing departments - with the nation's 1,000 largest companies. It was conducted by an independent research firm and developed by Accountemps, the world's first and largest specialized staffing service

for temporary accounting, finance and bookkeeping professionals.

Executives were asked, "In your opinion, are employees more or less productive the week before a major holiday?" Their responses: Much more productive 5%; Somewhat more productive 18%; No difference 31%; Somewhat less productive 42%; Much less productive 2%; Don't know/no answer 2%.

"Offices are typically less productive during the holidays than at other times of the year because of the many

*Continued on Page 11*

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Toreador Red • V6 • 5 Speed • 27,000 Miles • Gas Saver!

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White • 4 Door • Automatic • PW/PL/CD • 21,000 Miles

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**2004 Toyota Camry LE #E188A \$17,495**  
Blue • 31,000 Miles • Still in Warranty

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**2002 Ford F-150 Super Cab XLT #D270A \$12,995**  
White • 7,700 GVW Package • Great for Towing!

**2005 Lincoln Town Car Signature #7022 \$25,595**  
Satin Silver w/graphite leather • 17,000 Miles • LUXURY!

**2004 Chevy 2500 Extended Cab LS #F132B \$24,995**  
Pewter • 40,000 Miles • Duramax Diesel

**2004 Ford F-250 Crew Cab Lariat #F152A \$25,995**  
White • Short Bed • Powerstroke • Replacement Front Bumper

**1995 Ford F-250 Super Cab XLT #4751B \$ 5,995**  
Toreador Red • V8 • Good Work Truck

**2003 Ford Windstar SE #7006A \$12,995**  
White • Quad Captains Chairs • 36,000 Miles

**2005 Ford Escape XLT #7011 \$18,995**  
Silver • All Wheel Drive • 22,000 Miles

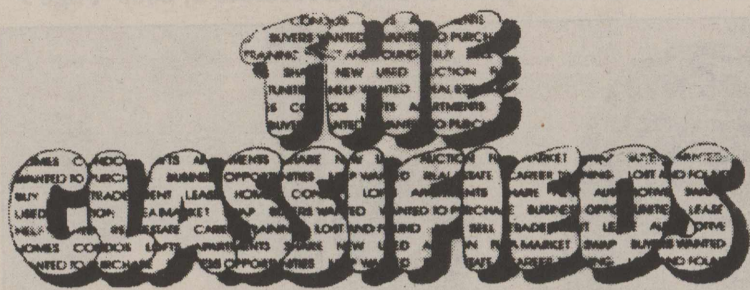
**2005 Ford Freestar SE #7014 \$17,995**  
White • 3rd Row Seat • Rear Air • 24,000 Miles

**2002 Ford F-150 Super Crew #E214A \$12,995**  
White w/tan interior • 5.4 V8 • XLT

**2004 Ford Taurus SES #4761V \$11,995**  
Silver • 29,000 Miles • Excellent Condition!

**We want to invite all of our customers and friends to visit with us during our Christmas Open House Friday, December 2, from 11 am to 3 pm.**

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**Randy Flanagan • Billy Wayne Roe**



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*A service charge will be added to all ads which must be billed.*

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Tuesdays at 2 pm

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

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



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New and Used. Repairs, upgrades, internet service. Ed Martindale, 473-3004.

**FOR SALE**  
4 bedroom, 1 bath, CA/CH, single carport, new roof, fenced backyard at 101 East Jones in Bronte. 473-2221.

**FOR SALE**  
1977 Chevy Travelcraft motorhome. Runs, but needs work. AC & refrigerator work good. \$800. 325-450-4266.

**FOR SALE**  
2 lots in Bronte, 118 N. Lombard. \$2,600. 473-5331.

**HANDYMAN CONSTRUCTION**  
LICENSED ELECTRICIAN • INSURED & BONDABLE ANY TYPE OF JOB

**TOMMY WILLIAMS**  
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**REDUCED PRICE**  
For sale, house & furnished trailer in Robert Lee. 944-8990.

**FOR SALE**  
Four business lots, 2003 mobile home, 16' x 80'. 3 BR, 2 BA, CH/CA, 24' x 80' shop. \$40,000. 473-5331.

**FOR SALE**  
95 Schult Doublewide, 3 BR/2BA, fireplace, decks, on extr-large lot. With or without land. 501 12th in Robert Lee. 432-398-5225 or 492-230-2740.

**FOR RENT**

**FOR RENT**  
Nice, 3 BR, 2 full bath, single car garage, fenced yard. Across street from Robert Lee school. No inside pets. 453-2775.

**FOR LEASE**  
Large shop with office & restroom on over 350' of Hwy 277 frontage in Bronte. Call 325/439-1051. \$500/month.

**TAKING APPLICATIONS**  
for one, two & three bedroom apartments. Washers, dryers, RO water systems in each unit. Contact Housing Authority of Robert Lee, 710 N. Bishop, 453-2912. Equal Housing Opportunity.

**NICE! NEW! BRICK!**  
3 bedroom 2 1/2 baths  
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Call: 325-473-3105  
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Code #27, 325-473-3613, 325-223-1525.

**TREES**  
Topped, trimmed or removed, Shrubs-brush. Call George Grim 453-9902 after 5.

**AM INTERESTED**  
in maintaining rural cemeteries or cemetery plots. Call George Grim at 453-9902 after 5:00 for scheduled or as needed maintenance.

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

**STUMP GRINDING**  
You have an unsightly tree stump in your yard? We'll grind it out without leaving a hole or a mess. Richard Baker. 473-2017 (home), (325) 669-7415 (cell).

**THE "BARBER" SHOP**  
Debora England, 107 W. Main, Bronte. 277-8164.  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. 9 am - 5 pm.

**HELP WANTED**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that applications are being accepted for a full-time roadhand in Precinct #1. Applications may be picked up in the Coke County Judge's Office in the Courthouse and returned to the Judge's Office by 9:00 am Monday, December 12, 2005. For further information, contact Troy Montgomery, Commissioner Precinct #1 at 473-0146. Coke County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**BRONTE ISD**  
is now accepting applications for a maintenance person. Applications will be accepted in the Superintendent's office until December 13, 2005. Contact Alan Richey for more information at 325-473-2511. BISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**NEAR SCHOOL!** This Brick Home has fireplace in the Living Area! Covered Area across back of house! Kitchen Appliances negotiable! \$50's!!

**Concho Realty**  
Becky Clendennen  
Office 653-4535  
Home 453-4748

**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

**Blackwell**, Extremely nice 1,661 sq. ft. Brick Home with 3 BR, 2 BA, CA/CH, single car garage and carport, 13 x 21 brick shop, storm cellar and covered patio.

**Bronte**, Beautiful Brick Home, 1726 sq. ft. with 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 car garage, formal dining room, fireplace, storage room and workshop, metal covered area for travel trailer

**Robert Lee**  
New Listing on 10 Acres, 3 BR, 2 BA Home, 2,240 sq. ft., Vaulted Ceilings, Fireplace, Dining Room, Large Bathroom with Jacuzzi Tub, 31 x 60 and 25 x 35 metal buildings.

**It's Fresh**, 4 BR, 2 BA, 2 story home, secluded, near Lake Spence on a large lot

**Less than 1 year old**, 1984 sq. ft. Home, 3 BR, 2 BA, Vaulted ceiling in Living Area, Master Suite w/ "Oasis" Bath, Office w/built-in desk, 2 car carport w/storage, landscaped

**Lake Spence, Waterfront access**, Brick home with **Under Contract** 30 x 40 garage/shop, numerous trees and Magnificent views.

**Very nice Brick Home** with 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 Living Areas, Extra room for Office/Game Room, 2 car garage, 2 car carport, Privacy Fence.

**Close to School!** 3 BR, 2 BA home with extra room, CA/CH, 2 car carport, on corner lot.

**Brick Veneer Home** with 3 BR, 2 Bath, over 2560 sq. ft. Large living area with fireplace. Formal dining and living area, 14' x 16' shop.

**3 BR, 2 Bath** home with CA/CH, Hardwood floors, Metal roof and 2 car carport with privacy fence.

**Very Nice Office Building** Prime location. Landscaped with additional lots. Acreage  
1023 +/- Acres, Will Divide. All pasture and flat to rolling terrain with deep creeks and rough headers, 3 water wells and electricity, excellent deer hunting with turkey and quail  
884 +/- AC. 150 ac. in cultivation, 172 ac. improved pasture, 2 water wells, 2 tanks, barn, good fences, excellent hunting. Black Buck Antelope.  
650 +/- AC. All pasture, close to Colorado River, rolling terrain, 3 tanks, excellent hunting.  
338 +/- AC. FM frontage, Rolling hills with deep creek, water well & electricity. Under wildlife management.  
320 +/- AC. Secluded, rolling terrain with hills and mountainous views, older rock home. Two water wells, crossed fenced. Good hunting.  
314 +/- AC. Live Oak trees on Yellow Wolf Creek, good water well, 230 ac. cultivation, good hunting.  
160 +/- AC. **Under Contract** county pad access, all pasture, **Under Contract** scenic mountain views, good hunting.  
125 +/- AC. **Under Contract** **OFFER!** All Pasture. **Under Contract** Robert Lee. Flat to rolling terrain. Good hunting.  
80 +/- Acres, Very nice ranch style home with 3 BR, 2 BA 2 Living Areas. All Steel Horse and Cattle Pens. 3 Large Barns.  
77 +/- Acres, all pasture land, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, Native Rock home, garden area, Pecan trees, 3 water wells, rural water, older barn and shop.

**Other Listings Available**

**NEEDED**  
Part-time Baptist church music/youth director needed in Bronte, Texas. Please call Pastor Tim White at 473-4811.

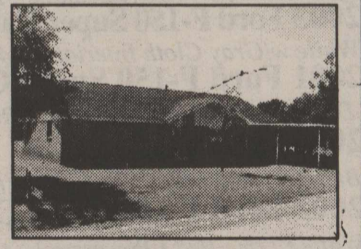
**SAN ANGELO STANDARD TIMES**  
is seeking a mature individual to deliver newspapers in Robert Lee. Make approx. \$800 a month working early morning hours. 659-8291.

**TRES AMIGOS CONVENIENCE STORE**  
Water Valley  
Cashiers/Food Service Workers  
Apply in person.

**THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE**  
Serving Coke County  
P.O. Box 1329 Robert Lee, TX 76945  
(915) 453-2433

**drop box is located at**

**HOMETOWN HARDWARE**  
in Bronte.



**SELLER WILL PAY BUYER'S CLOSING COSTS!** Possible low down payment or no down payment! 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Home updated with carpet & ceramic tile!

**NOTICES**

**THE HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BRONTE SANTA FE CROSSING DUPLEXES**  
Will receive sealed bids for a contract to remodel two duplexes that were involved in a fire. Bids will be due by December 15, 2005 at 5:00 pm, at the Santa Fe Crossing Duplexes Office, 320 SE Railroad, Bronte, Texas 76933. Bid guidelines and copies of documents can be obtained by contacting Santa Fe Crossing Duplexes office at 325-473-3105 or 325/473-7018.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that applications are being accepted for a full-time (32 Hours) maintenance employee in the Coke County Courthouse. Applications may be picked up in the Coke County Judge's Office and returned by 9 am Friday, December 16, 2005. For further information, call the Coke County Judge at 453-2641. Coke County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Editorial & Advertising Deadline is 2 pm on Tuesday preceding publication.**

**THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE**  
Serving Coke County  
P.O. Box 1329 Robert Lee, TX 76945  
(915) 453-2433

**...Season's distractions**  
(Continued from Page 9)

distractions," according to Max Messmer, chairman of Accountemps and author of *Motivating Employees For Dummies* (John Wiley & Sons, Inc.). "This can place pressure on managers and staff to stay focused on critical end-of-quarter and end-of-year projects."

The opposite also can be true as some workplaces experience a lull in business activity around this time of year. Messmer suggests employees take advantage of downtime by completing activities that were previously on the backburner and by planning ahead for the upcoming year. "Just don't skip the festivities altogether or you will lose the opportunity to celebrate the season with colleagues," he cautioned.

Accountemps offers the following tips to employees for remaining productive before a major holiday:

\*Beat the rush. Plan with your supervisor and colleagues, and allow adequate time to prepare for and complete major projects that occur during the holiday season.

\*Make a list and check it twice. Tie up loose ends before leaving for vacation. Provide alternative contact information in your voice-mail messages and e-mail auto-responses so that incoming requests can be handled.

\*Remember that it is better to give than receive. When possible, delegate time-sensitive tasks and responsibilities to coworkers, and offer to return the favor when they are out. Make sure the person taking over for you has clear instructions and guidance on the project.

Accountemps has more than 330 offices throughout North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, and offers online job search services at [www.accountemps.com](http://www.accountemps.com).

**Capitol  
Comments**

**By Senator  
Kay Bailey Hutchison**

**Thanking soldiers for  
their gift of  
freedom and security**

The most pleasant warmth of the holidays is that generated by gathering with family and friends. During these respites, we have a chance to reflect on and appreciate all that we work for and all the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. When you are making the finishing touches on that perfect pie, listening to holiday music or sitting back to watch a football game, take a moment to remember all our veterans who have labored and sacrificed to make our prosperity and freedom possible. Also remember those who are overseas right now, in harm's way, so that we can gather in freedom and safety. By aiding

the people of Iraq and Afghanistan in establishing new, successful democracies, they are securing a safer future for us.

Our soldiers deserve the very best from us. In the Senate, I have devoted a substantial portion of my work to ensuring that we fulfill our pledge to take care of our fighting men and women. I serve as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs. I make a special point of examining areas in which the proper care of our veterans may have been overlooked and seeing to it that those issues are addressed.

After the first Gulf War, thousands of our soldiers began to show symptoms that did not fit the diagnosis for a traditional illness. A federal panel claimed that most of the veterans were suffering from stress. This conclusion did not sit right with me or many of our veterans, so I spearheaded an effort to change the manner in which the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) was handling the issue, including having them devote substantial resources to investigating the matter in more detail. Further research suggested that some veterans' illnesses actually may have been caused by exposure to sarin nerve gas or other toxic substances. I sponsored a provision that mandates the VA spend a minimum of \$15 million a year for the next five years on Gulf War Illness research. We also consolidated this research at UT Southwestern in Dallas, where Dr. Robert Haley published the first breakthrough study suggesting a link between exposure to nerve gas and Gulf War Illness.

Work like this is an important part of our duty to our veterans. Caring for soldiers' mental health is a vital part of ensuring that they enjoy the freedom for which they fought. I learned that the VA was not using its resources in this area efficiently. The doctors who research and treat soldiers' mental illnesses are dispersed throughout the country, with little structure to focus their efforts.

We need to establish Centers of Excellence that develop experts on particular issues. Other facilities need to reach out to these Centers of Excellence to benefit from their research. And, when a patient has a particularly complex issue, the other facilities need to be able to refer that patient directly to the Center of Excellence whose experts are most adept at understanding new problems. I recently persuaded the Congress to pass a bill requiring just that, developing Centers of Excellence in mental health, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, prosthetics and diabetes care. This bill specifically designates the Waco health facility as a "Mental Center of Excellence" and directs the VA secretary to support it and other centers with appropriate resources.

Our veterans are spread throughout the country, and, like many other Americans, they move from place to place, on vacation and to relocate. When

veterans see new doctors, those doctors need to know patients' previous medical histories and have access to other records like CAT-SCANS, x-rays and blood tests. When they need urgent care, doctors must know their medical history in an instant; and patients may not be in a condition to communicate that information to doctors themselves.

With this in mind, we had started to set up a digital record-keeping system that can be accessed by VA doctors anywhere in the country. Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf during the early stages of this new digital system, forcing thousands of veterans to leave their homes around New Orleans and travel hundreds of miles. When these displaced veterans found themselves away from home, doctors in other VA facilities were able to access many of their patients' old tests and other records via a computer network set up in Houston. Based on its initial success, my subcommittee has decided to move forward with a full-scale project, allocating \$50 million to develop this initiative. Before long, doctors will no longer need to perform duplicative tests, such as CAT-SCANS that were already performed elsewhere, and they will not need to pester veterans to repeatedly fill out the same information about their medical history. In the long run, this new system will provide better care while saving veterans frustration and taxpayers money.

These are just a few of the ways that we are working on your behalf to fulfill our duty to those who have been so devoted to our country. Still, there are important ways we need to thank our soldiers beyond this work.

There are a multitude of ways to show your appreciation. When you see men and women in uniform at the airport or out shopping, you can make a special point to saying, "Thank you for your service." When you see a soldier behind you in a line, you can ask him or her to please go ahead of you.

But, do not forget that taking 10 minutes to express your thanks in writing is often the most meaningful way to let our soldiers know that you are truly grateful for the sacrifice they make. So consider taking a few moments to send a direct thank you to our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan or to their families. It is especially important to remember the families of fallen soldiers. Describe to them some of the good things in your life which you know ultimately are secured by their sacrifice. I work hard for all of us to make sure the Senate does right by our soldiers, but to thank them properly takes personal action by all of us.

Here are links to get you started:

- \* [deploymentlink.osd.mil/faq/faq\\_troop.shtml](http://deploymentlink.osd.mil/faq/faq_troop.shtml)
- \* [www.anysoldier.com](http://www.anysoldier.com)
- \* [americasupportsyou.mil](http://americasupportsyou.mil)
- \* [www.operationhomefront.net](http://www.operationhomefront.net)

**Local thespian troupe  
fights hunger in national  
food collection drive**

The International Thespian Society (ITS), a division of the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA), just completed the third year of its national community service initiative, Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat (TOTS-EAT). Local Thespian troupes from Lake View High School and San Angelo Central High School collected 653

pounds of food for local food pantry programs. They joined more than 200 Thespian troupes from across the United States to collect a total of 225,635 pounds of food for local charitable food programs.

"In spite of several devastating hurricanes, the results this year really demonstrate the compassion of theatre students across the country and exemplify the generosity of the American spirit," said Michael J. Peitz, EdTA Executive Director. "It's widely recognized that theatre develops character and teaches life skills. The TOTS-EAT program is another benefit that communities receive when supporting their schools' theatre programs."

David LaFleche, EdTA Director of Membership said, "With all of the giving seen after the hurricanes in the south, I was concerned that people would be 'donated out.' I am so glad that our students, our teachers, and their communities came through as food pantry inventories are down and requests have increased."

Thespian troupes who participate in TOTS-EAT may collect food as individual troupes or teams and qualify for awards based on their participation. Some highlights of this year's award winners include: the Individual School Cornucopia Award being presented to Alice (Texas) High School Troupe 5191 for collecting the most total weight with 13,668 pounds; the Harvest Excellence Award being presented to Kellam High School Troupe 2326 in Virginia Beach, VA for the greatest total collection of 6,678 pounds for a first-time TOTS-EAT participant; and the Team Cornucopia Award being presented to a team of 10 troupes in the Wichita, Kansas area who collected 7,305 pounds.

For more information about Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat, please visit [www.tots-eat.org](http://www.tots-eat.org).

**ESTATE AUCTION**

*Estate of James and Lois Dunklin*

**WHEN: Sunday • December 4th • 1 pm**

**WHERE: 803 Vicky Street • Robert Lee**

*(Take 10th Street off of Hwy 208 in front of the Catholic Church.  
Go one block to Vicky Street and turn left. Watch for signs!)*

**Early Viewing: Saturday • December 3rd • 1 pm - 4 pm**

**Sunday • December 4th • 11 am until sale time**

*Folks, this is a walk-through sale. Bring your lawn chairs.*

*Everything must be paid for and removed on sale day.*

*This house is full, bring your trucks and trailers.*

**15 Guns • Rifles and Pistols • Call the store for a list!**

Wonderful ornate French sofa and chair, gold gilt curio cabinet, set of marble top tables, mahogany triple dresser, antique cedar chest, pair of matched maple rockers, nice TV, 6 ft. showcase, loveseat, nice pictures and mirrors, some carnival glass and other collectables, maple bar stools, queen size bedroom set, pair of club chairs, oak modern china cabinet, antique oak kitchen clock, antique oak sideboard, upright freezer, riding lawn mower, almost new push-type lawn mower, small tiller, tons of good household items and much, much more!

**FOR MORE INFO, CALL:**

**Tennis Auction Company**

**(325) 653-3494**

**Randy Cave, Owner TXS-6274**

**Fish and Wildlife Service seeks proposals for private stewardship grants program**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced recently it is seeking proposals for conservation projects on private lands through its Private Stewardship Grants Program. For FY 2006, approximately \$6.5 million is available through this grant program to support on-the-ground conservation efforts on private lands. Proposals must be submitted by January 23, 2006.

As envisioned by President Bush, this program provides Federal grants on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in voluntary conservation efforts on private lands that benefit imperiled species such as federally listed endangered or threatened species as well as proposed, candidate and other at-risk species. Landowners and their partners may submit proposals directly to the Service for funding to support those efforts.

Applicants in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas should submit proposals to the USFWS, Attn: David Frederick, 500 Gold SW (P.O. Box 1306), Albuquerque, NM 87102, 505-248-6587.

In September 2005, the Service awarded 72 grants totaling more than \$6.5 million to individuals and groups to undertake conservation projects for endangered, threatened, and other at-risk species on private lands in 38 states and one territory.

For more information regarding this grant opportunity and on how and where to submit proposals, please visit the Service's Private Stewardship Grants Website at [http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private\\_stewardship.html](http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private_stewardship.html). The Private Stewardship Grants Program is identified in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance as number 15.632.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices, and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American Tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in

excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to State fish and wildlife agencies.

**Texas Cooperative Extension offers chances for continuing education units in December**

Area residents have two chances to earn Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units and one opportunity to earn Structural Pest Control Board units in December.

The continuing education units will be offered through training sessions conducted by Texas Cooperative Extension.

The first, a Structural Pest Control Board and Texas Department of Agriculture seminar, begins at 8:30 a.m. Dec. 7 in the Abilene Civic Center. Six units will be offered by the Structural Pest Control Board and five will be offered by the Texas Department of Agriculture at that training.

The second, a Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education unit training, will begin at 8 a.m. Dec. 14 at the Taylor County Extension office, 1982 Lytle Way in Abilene. Five continuing education credits will be offered at this training.

The Dec. 7 training will feature the following topics and speakers:

"Integrated Pest Management for the Urban Landscape," Melissa Clifton, Extension horticulturist, Abilene;

"Managing Common Turf and Ornamental Arthropods," Dr. Chris Sansone, Extension entomologist, San Angelo;

"Mosquitoes," Dr. David Kates, entomologist, Tarleton State University, Stephenville;

"General Weed Control," Dr. James McAfee, Extension turfgrass specialist, Dallas;

"Current Laws and Regulations," (split session), Daniel Hernandez, Texas Structural Pest Control Board, Austin and Jan Hatler, Texas Department of Agriculture, Winters;

"Current Termite Control Options," Dr. Mike Merchant, Extension Urban entomologist, Dallas.

The Dec. 14 training, a weed and brush recertification course, will feature:

"What's New in Weed and Brush Herbicides?" Gary Bomar; Extension agent for Taylor County;

"The Concepts of Integrated Pest Management," Clifton;

"Winter Weed ID and Control," Dr. Billy Warrick, Extension agronomist, San Angelo;

"Texas Herbicide Laws," Hatler, and

"Do It Yourself Brush Control Equipment," Dr. Allan McGinty, Extension range specialist, San Angelo.

Individual pre-registration for the Dec. 7 seminar is \$20 if received by Dec. 2. Registration after Dec. 2 and at the door is \$30.

Individual pre-registration for the Dec. 14 seminar is \$15 if received by Dec. 9. Late registration is \$25.

Registration fees include snacks and lunch.

For more information and to register, contact the Extension office in Taylor County at (325) 672-6048.

**Robert Lee Pips Performance Schedule**

Date	Game/Place	Warm-up Time
Friday, December 16	Paint Rock High School	6:00 pm
Tuesday, January 3	Panther Creek High School	6:00 pm
Monday, January 16	Menard Junior High	5:15 pm
Tuesday, February 7	Bronte High School	6:00 pm
Saturday, February 11	Robert Lee Care Center	9:45 am

*All game performances are at Robert Lee during halftime of the Girls "A" or Varsity Game.  
The Robert Lee Care Center performance will be at 10 am - weather permitting.*

Coordinator: Becky Ross, 453-4671. Coaches: Wade Tinkler, 453-5227; Sabrina Owen, 453-9834; Tommy Roach, 453-2323.

**SMELL**

*A distinctive "rotten egg" odor added to make odorless natural gas detectable*

**LISTEN**

*An unusual hissing, roaring or blowing sound near gas lines or appliances*

**LOOK**

*Blowing dirt, bubbling creeks or ponds, dry spots in moist areas or dead plants surrounded by green, live plants*

**LEAVE**

*The area immediately—do not smoke, use a cell phone, turn on or off any lights or appliances or operate any kind of vehicle or equipment that could cause sparks*

Although natural gas leaks are rare, learn to recognize the signs. If you suspect a natural gas leak, play it safe: call Atmos Energy at 1-800-817-8090 from a safe distance.

**ATMOS**  
energy.

If you suspect a natural gas leak, call 1-800-817-8090. For more information on gas safety, visit [atmosenergy.com](http://atmosenergy.com).