

THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke & Sterling Counties

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Friday, December 16, 2005

City of Bronte officials confirm drinking water purity for residents

A recent metroplex news story has some residents of Bronte wondering about the quality of their drinking water. The story indicated that levels of Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HHA5) were higher than the new regulations allowed.

Bronte city officials in a recent news conference assured residents of Bronte that the levels of these two chemicals are well below the levels that the new regulations allowed. They also reminded residents that their drinking water is monitored quarterly to maintain purity levels.

WIC Clinic to close in Robert Lee

As of January 1, 2006, the WIC Clinic in Robert Lee will close. Anyone wanting WIC will need to travel to the Ballinger WIC office, phone number 325-365-5925 or San Angelo WIC Clinic at 657-4396.

Christmas Bird Count meeting set

The Audubon Society annual bird count has been set for Coke County Saturday, December 17. All those interested in assisting with this local effort are urged to meet at the Windmill Cafe in Robert Lee at 8 am. You don't have to be proficient in bird identification to assist with this effort.

For more information, contact Noel Gregston at 453-4488.

Bronte First Baptist Church offers

Christmas Candlelight service

Bronte's First Baptist Church will continue its celebration of the birth of Christ with a special time of worship by candlelight. This service will be held in the church's sanctuary at 6 pm, this Sunday, December 18, 2005.

This service is open to the community. Christmas music, Scripture, Biblical message, and candlelight are all on the agenda. Pastor Morris Johnson invites and encourages everyone to come and participate in this time of worship and celebration.

This service is part of the church's Christmas emphasis of "Unwrapping the Gift." The 10:55 am worship service this Sunday will focus on "Unwrapping God's Peace." The

Christmas Day service will be from 10:00 am to 11:00 am and will look at "Unwrapping God's Purpose." First Baptist Church is located at 424 S. Washington in Bronte.

For more information, call the church office at 473-2331 or Pastor Morris Johnson at 473-5661.

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.

RLFUMC sets evening of caroling Dec. 21

An evening of caroling to celebrate the season with the Robert Lee First United Methodist Church has been set for the evening of December 21 at 6 pm. Carolers will assemble in the church fellowship hall.

After spreading the Christmas spirit throughout the town the Christmas carolers will return to the church for refreshments.

Blood Drive set for December 22 in Robert Lee

KKCN Country 103.1 and United Blood Services invite everyone to be part of the 25th Annual Country Christmas Blood Drive beginning Monday, December 19th through Friday, December 23rd.

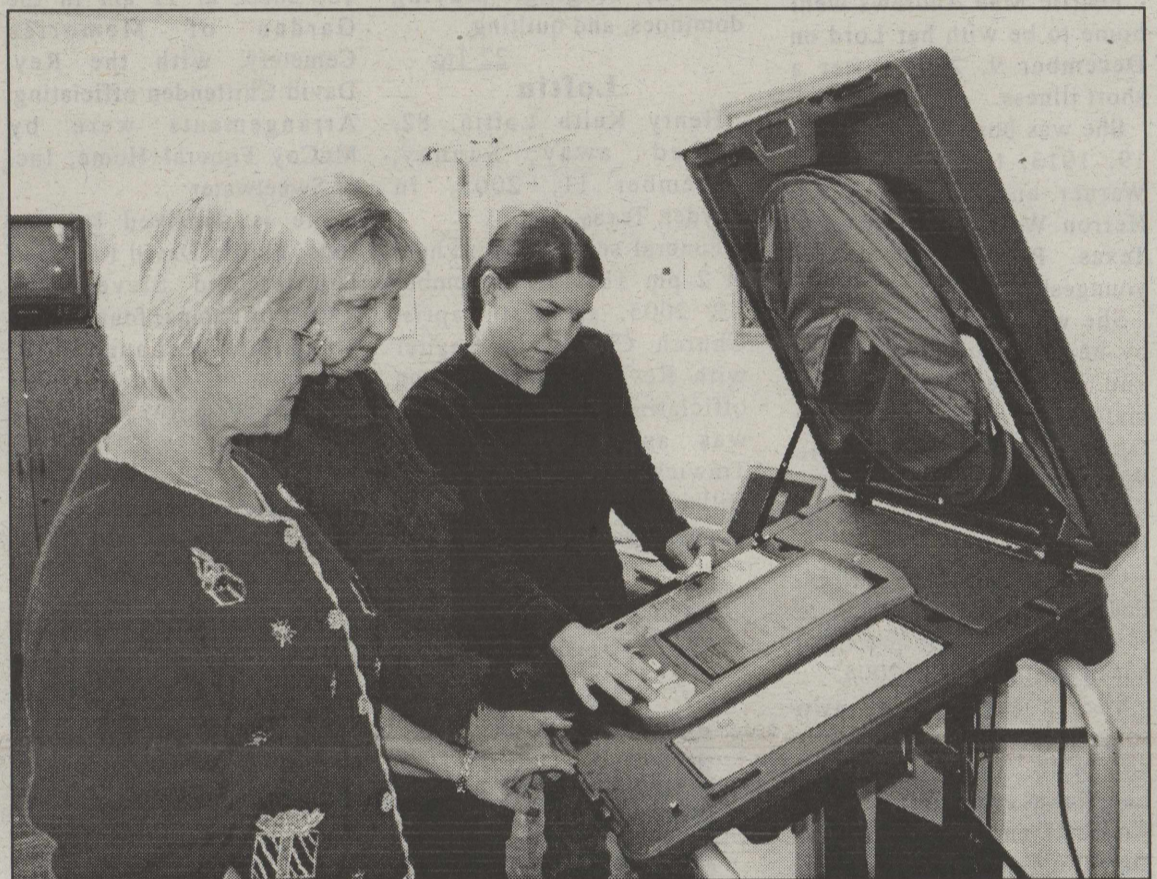
The blood drive will be at the Robert Lee Baptist Fellowship Hall on Thursday, December 22nd from 4 pm until 8 pm. The Baptist Church is located at 22 W. 11th Street.

Each donor will receive:

- *Country Christmas T-shirt
- *Snack size bag of Julio's chips
- *Pint of Gandy's ice cream
- *1-20 ounce bottle of Pepsi
- *Applebee's coupon for free chips and hot sauce appetizer
- *Chick Fil A coupon for free chicken sandwich

Each day one lucky donor will win a DVD player courtesy of Best Buy.

All donors during the Country Christmas Blood Drive will be entered in the Grand prize drawing-a 32 inch Flat Screen Television courtesy of Best Buy.



New Voting Machines! County/District Clerk Mary Grim (left) and her deputies Sharon Lee and Robin Munoz try out one of the new county voting machines. Commissioners Court voted recently to make county voting all electronic, doing away with paper ballots for county-run elections. The county now has ten eSlate machines and six DAU (disabled unit) machines. A voting machine is set up in the Commissioners Courtroom and is available until early voting for area voters to familiarize themselves with the new machine. Any group or community organization who would like to have the machines demonstrated for their members are urged to contact the clerk's office to schedule a demonstration.

Coke County dance slated

The Coke County Dance will be held next on January 3, 2006, from 7:00-10:00. It is held the 1st Tuesday of each month. The dance is usually attended by 45-50 dancers from the following areas: Blackwell, Sylvester, Snyder, Fluvanna, San Angelo, Robert Lee, Abilene, Sweetwater, Bronte, Winters, and Colorado City.

Reserve community buildings beginning January 3, 2006

The first day to rent the Bronte and Robert Lee Recreation Halls, Senior Buildings, and Pavilions will be Tuesday, January 3, 2006, at 7 am. Come by the Judge's office to reserve the buildings. If you have any questions, please call Lorrie Martin or Roy Blair at 453-2641.

Mini-Health Fair set for January 9

The North Runnels Home Health Center will be hosting a Mini-Health Fair in conjunction with the Robert Lee Senior

Citizens and Coke County Extension office on Monday, January 9, 2006, from 5-7 pm.

Information on home health, nutrition and fitness will be presented along with free blood pressure and blood sugar checks. For more information, contact Karla Hamrick at 453-2314 or 453-4780.

Filing for elections continues

The filing period for next year's primary election continues through Monday, January 2, 2006.

Filing for office through this week are: Democratic Primary - Roy Blair, Incumbent County Judge; Mary Grim, Incumbent County/District Clerk; Phelan Wrinkle, Incumbent County Treasurer; Bill Wheat, Incumbent County Commissioner, Precinct 2; George Snapp, Incumbent County Commissioner, Precinct 4; Bobby Blaylock, County Commissioner, Precinct 4; Joan Davis, Incumbent Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1; Grady Coulter, Incumbent Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2; Republican

Primary - Hal Spain, County Judge; and Andra Arrott, County Treasurer.

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 and the filing fees required include County Judge, \$750; County Commissioner, Precinct 2, \$750; County Commissioner, Precinct 4, \$750; County/District Clerk, \$750; County Treasurer, \$750; Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, \$375; and 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.

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

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Obituaries

Andrews

Pearlie Mae Andrews went home to be with her Lord on December 9, 2005, after a short illness.

She was born on November 19, 1913, to J.W. "Collie" Warner and Lennie Esther Herron Warner near Bronte, Texas. Pearlie Mae was the youngest of seven children.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, Joe Warner and Earnest Warner; her sisters, Martha Alexander, Opal Beaver, and Ollie Warner. She is survived by one sister, Ella Pruitt of Bronte.

On September 29, 1938, Pearlie Mae married Richard Murl Andrews. He preceded her in death April 2, 2004.

She is survived by two sons, James Vernon Andrews and wife, Judie of Robert Lee, Texas, and Richard Don Andrews and wife, Lidia of Del Rio, Texas; one daughter, Tricia Merlene DuBois and husband, Doug of Austin, Tx; four grandsons; two granddaughters; two great grandsons; and three great-granddaughters; and a host of family and friends.

Funeral services were held at 2 pm Sunday, December 11, 2005, at Central Baptist Church. Burial followed in Fairview Cemetery.

Pallbearers were her grandsons and Buddy Walker.

Services were under direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

Pearlie Mae's main joys in life were her family, her church, singing, playing dominoes, and quilting.

22-1tc

Loftin

Henry Keith Loftin, 82, passed away Sunday, December 11, 2005, in Snyder, Texas.

Funeral services were held at 2 pm Tuesday, December 13, 2005, at First Baptist Church Chapel in Snyder with Rev. Miller Robinson officiating. Rev. Robinson was assisted by Brady Trawick. Burial followed in Hillside Memorial Gardens in Snyder. Services were under

the direction of Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

He is survived by his wife, Norma Richards Lofton of Snyder; one son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Becky Lofton of Midland; 2 grandsons and granddaughters-in-law, Bryan and Missy Lofton of Austin and Bradley and Melissa Lofton of Houston; two great-grandsons, Harry and Luke Lofton of Austin; two brothers, O. N. Lofton of Midland and Dale Lofton of Edmond, Oklahoma.

Ratliff

Dixie Dell Ratliff, 84, died Thursday, December 8, 2005, at the Bronte Health & Rehab Center.

Graveside services were held on Saturday, December 10, 2005, at 11 am in the Garden of Memories Cemetery, with the Rev. David Chittenden officiating. Arrangements were by McCoy Funeral Home, Inc. of Sweetwater

She is survived by two sons; Phillip David Ratliff of Bronte, and Steven Lee Ratliff of Pampa; four sisters; Margarette McLaughlin of Brownwood, Cardelia Oden of Sweetwater, Irene McLelland of Lillie, Louisiana, Velma Massingill of Snyder; one granddaughter and one grandson.

WTC Foundation scholarship formed in Bailey's memory

Western Texas College Foundation in Snyder, Texas, announced recently the formation of a foundation scholarship in memory of Michael Jared Bailey. Jared was killed in an accident earlier this year.

The son of Michael and Dana Bailey of Ira and the grandson of Don and Joyce Bailey of Bronte, Jared was born May 5, 1989, in Midland. He attended school in Andrews through the 8th grade. A junior at Ira High School, Jared was active in many school activities including the Ira Bulldogs football, basketball, tennis, track and golf teams. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Ira and active in the Fellowship of Christian Students, FFA, Student Council, horse judging, the parliamentary procedure team and National Honor Society. Jared was third in his class, class officer, and a rock-solid Christian.



Jared "Sunshine" Bailey 1989-2005

Because of the many donations given to Western Texas College in Jared's name, a foundation scholarship has been set up in his memory, the Michael Jared Bailey Foundation Scholarship.

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.

"Happy 73rd Wedding Anniversary"
 to our Parents
Floyd and Jessie Harmon
"Happy 90th Birthday, Mama (Ma)"
 December 18, 2005
"We Love You"

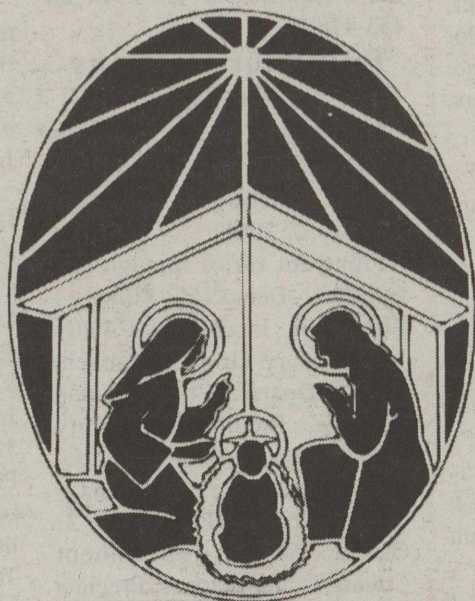
from your children and families
 Lawana, Dorene, Jeffie, Jerry, Bobby and Janie
 11 grandchildren & spouses & 15 great-grandchildren



**Christmas
 Candlelight Worship
 Service
 Sunday, December 18
 6:00 pm
 First Baptist Church
 Bronte**

Everyone Welcome!

**COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS
 AND BRING A FRIEND!**



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
 Robert Lee First United Methodist Church
 December 24 • 6:00 pm Worship Service

**Area Churches
 Invite You to Worship**

Bronte Church of Christ
 PO Box 346 • 118 S. Jefferson
 Bronte
 (325) 473-3291
 Preacher John V. Driggers
 Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

Central Baptist Church
 324 S. Franklin • Bronte
 (325) 473-4811
 Tim White, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am Sunday School
 11 am & 6 pm Worship
 Wed. 6 pm

Emmanuel Pentecostal
 PO Box 683 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy
 Robert Lee
 (325) 453-2360
 Rev. Ray Aldridge, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

First Baptist Church
 424 S. Washington • Bronte
 (325) 473-2331
 Bro. Morris Johnson, Pastor
 Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,
 10:55 am Worship, 6 pm Youth
 and Worship
 Wednesday 7 pm Prayer Meeting

First United Methodist Church
 Corner of Washington & Holmes
 Bronte
 (325) 473-3281
 Rev. Larry Tianen
 Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship
 5:00 Youth

First United Methodist Church
 PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne
 Robert Lee
 (325) 453-2417
 Rev. Steve Rowe, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am Sunday School
 11 am Worship
 Wed. 7 pm Choir

Iglesia Bautista Bethel
 101 Houston • Robert Lee
 (325) 453-5003 • 453-2296
 Pastor: Basilio Esquivel
 Sun. 9:45, 11:00, & 11:30 am
 & 6 pm, Wednesday 7 pm

Northside Church of Christ
 PO Box 388 • 9th & Chadbourne
 Robert Lee
 (325) 655-9784 or 453-2685
 Portis Ribble, Minister
 Services: Sun. 10 am & 1:30 pm;
 Wed. 6 pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
 601 W. 10th, Robert Lee
 (325) 365-2687
 Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor
 Sat. 6 pm

Pecan Baptist
 PO Box 542 • 12 miles West of Robert Lee
 on Sterling City Hwy • (325) 453-2004
 Rev. Richard Easterling, Pastor
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship

Robert Lee Baptist Church
 PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th
 (325) 453-2724
 Bro. Mike Poye, Pastor
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship
 Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting

Southside Church of Christ
 PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston
 Robert Lee
 (325) 453-2176
 Frank J. Daniels, Preacher
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
 11 am & 6 pm, Worship
 Wed. 7 pm, Worship

Tennyson Baptist Church
 Hwy 277 • Tennyson
 Joe Hodges, Pastor
 (325) 473-2040
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
 11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship
 Wed. 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting

Victory Assembly of God
 PO Box 638 • 6th & Houston
 Robert Lee
 (325) 453-2208
 Rev. Irene Ford, Pastor
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
 10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship
 Wed. 6 pm, Prayer Meeting



Roe Honored! Fay Roe, longtime Coke County Home Extension Agent, was recently honored by the national chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi with the State Award of Retiree Service. Mrs. Roe was recognized for her work over the last 20 years in keeping local Extension Agents across the region in contact. Only one state award is presented each year for Retiree Service and Mrs. Roe is very deserving of the honor. Mrs. Roe served as county extension agent in Coke County from 1943 to 1978 when she retired. Presenting the award is Billy Warrick, Epsilon Sigma Phi state officer.

Robert Lee VFD gains another truck

The Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Department has recently taken advantage of equipment aid available from the Texas Forest Service. The department acquired a free flatbed truck, courtesy of the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) equipment program administered by the agency. Under the FEPP program, equipment acquired through the military is transferred to qualifying fire departments at no cost.

Additional free equipment is available to rural fire departments, thanks to the Volunteer Fire Department Helping Hands

program, through which companies and organizations donate used fire equipment for use by volunteer fire departments. Companies interested in donating industrial fire equipment should contact the TFS Rural Fire Defense Section at 936-639-8130 for more information.

Volunteer fire departments may save money through several other programs administered by the Texas Forest Service. A self-insurance vehicle liability insurance pool offers liability coverage for \$200 per vehicle, ambulances excluded. Fire departments can also purchase firefighting clothing, hand tools and water handling accessories at

discount prices through the Fire Safe program. TFS regional fire coordinators located across the state now provide local training in wildland firefighting techniques and assist fire departments with applications for equipment and financial assistance.

Detailed information on volunteer fire department assistance programs is available from the Texas Forest Service regional fire coordinators and from the agency's Rural Fire Defense Section, P.O. Box 310, Lufkin, TX 75902-0310.

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Butt Portion Lb. **\$.99**

Cure 81 Spiral Sliced • Bone In
Hormel Half Ham
Lb. **\$1.99**

Shurfine • Grade A
Large Eggs
18 ct. ctn. **\$.99**

Golden Ripe
Bananas
3 Lbs. **/\$1**

Assorted • Reg. \$2.99 size
Lays or Wavy Lays
3 11-11.5 oz. bags **/\$5**

Regular, Light or Select
Budweiser Beer
20 pk. longneck bottles **\$13.59**
Natural Light 30 pack **\$16.79**

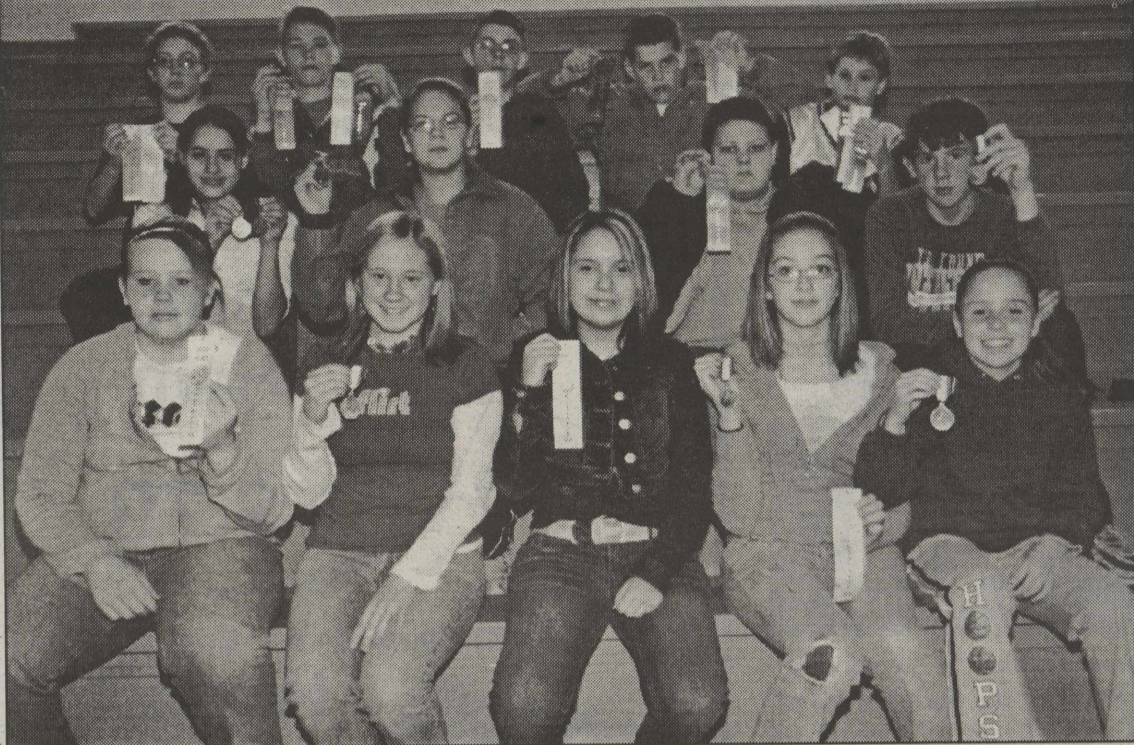
Miller Lite • Regular or Light
Coors Beer
18 pk 12 oz cans **\$11.99**
Keystone Light 30 pack **\$16.79**

Pepsi or Dr Pepper
2 12 pk. 12 oz. cans **/\$5**

Holiday Open House
Wednesday, December 21
11 am to 1 pm
Everyone is Invited to Attend
Frito Pie, Drinks, & Cookies
Will be served
First National Bank in Bronte
473-2911
Bronte, Texas
Member FDIC

BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS

Bronte 7th Grade UIL Team



Bronte 8th Grade UIL Team



Bronte JV boys basketball results

In the Sterling City Tournament, starting on Dec. 8, the Bronte JV boys won a close game against Water Valley, 25-24. Scoring: Sam Rawlings 5, Reece Springer 4, Cody Wallace 3, Paul McConnell 2, Zack Bennett 2, CJ McClure 6, and Mathew Allen 3.

In the Dec. 10th game, Robert Lee JV defeated Bronte 37-28. Scoring: Sam Rawlings 6, Tyler Lee 2, Reece Springer 6, Cody Wallace 5, Paul McConnell 3, and CJ McClure 6.

Sterling City defeated Bronte in a close game by a score of 31-29. Scoring: Sam Rawlings 3, Ty Mackey 2, Cody Wallace 3, Paul McConnell 4, Zack Bennett 3, CJ McClure 10, and Mathew Allen 4.

Bronte JH "B" Maroon Team results

On December 12th, Bronte defeated Veribest by a score of 35-19. Scoring: Heath Richey 15, Dakota Rawls 4, Terron Charles 2, Hadley Holland 2, Rob Rosson 8, and Hayden White 4.

Bronte JH "B" White Team results

Bronte "White" team defeated Water Valley 17-12. Scoring: Audie Miller 2, Mathew Halfacre 5, Wesley Suter 2, Chase Harris 2, Tyler

Riney 2, Ernesto Casillas 2 and Jose Perce 2.

The next game will be January 5th vs. Sterling City. Games begin at 5:00 and will be played in 2 gyms.

Bronte Junior High District UIL winners

7th grade
Calculator Applications
 6th place-Skyler Ellis-York

Dictionary Skills
 6th place-Heath Richey;
 3rd place team-Heath Richey,
 Dakota Rawls, Kerwin Rawls

Impromptu Speaking
 1st place-Kendyl Adams;
 6th place-Kerwin Rawls

Maps, Graphs & Charts
 4th place-Dakota Rawls;
 2nd place team-Dakota Rawls,
 Kerwin Rawls, Heath Richey

Science
 5th place-Chase Harris; 3rd
 place team-Chase Harris,
 Thomas Foster, Kerwin Rawls

Spelling
 3rd place-Kim Nixon; 3rd
 place team-Kim Nixon, Ali Franco,
 Brittani Harris

Ready Writing
 3rd place-Kelsey Sedden

Social Studies
 2nd place-Rachael Deller;
 1st place team-Rachael Deller,
 Kaycee Baker, Jake Cotter

8th grade
Calculator Applications
 3rd place team-Ali Cortez,
 Shelbi Waller, Wesley Suter

Impromptu Speaking
 3rd place-Shelbi Waller;
 6th place-Emily Fiveash

Listening Skills
 3rd place-Shelbi Waller

Maps, Graphs, and Charts
 4th place-Bill Miller; 1st
 place team-Bill Miller, Kasey Glover,
 Rob Rosson

Mathematics
 3rd place-Louie Martinez;
 4th place-Tyler Riney;
 3rd place team-Louie Martinez,
 Tyler Riney, Welsey Suter

Number Sense
 2nd place-Jacob Scott;
 6th place-Kolten Pena; 1st

place team-Jacob Scott,
 Kolten Pena, Kasey Glover

Oral Reading
 2nd place-Chelsea Meek

Science
 4th place-Kolten Pena; 6th
 place-Bill Miller; 3rd place
 team-Kolten Pena, Bill Miller,
 Emily Fiveash

Spelling
 6th place-Chelsea Cook; 3rd
 place team-Chelsea Cook,
 Chelsea Meek, Jacob Scott

Ready Writing
 6th place-Jacob Scott

Social Studies
 3rd place-Crawford James;
 3rd place team-Crawford James,
 Ali Cortez, Hayden White

Modern Oratory
 1st place-Stephanie Frasier

BISD board meets in regular session

The Bronte ISD Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on December 8, 2005, at 7 pm in the board room. Those in attendance were Wayne Coalson, Gary Acker, Terry Charles, Kendall Gibbs, Scott Frasier, and Alan Richey, Superintendent. Also present were Michael Bohensky and Rick Howell. Absent were Bob Frazee and Jeff Schoenfield.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rick Howell. Michael Bohensky, CCJJC Principal, and Rick Howell, Secondary Principal, gave reports. The board reviewed and approved Bronte ISD investments and investment policies.

Alan Richey, Superintendent, reported on the resurfacing of the track. The meeting was adjourned by the President at 9:20 pm.

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TO: All Coke County Precinct 4 Voters

I am pleased to announce my candidacy for reelection to the office of County Commissioner, Precinct 4. I solicit your vote and support in the upcoming Democratic Primary Election.

Thank You
George Snapp

Pd. Pol. Adv. by George Snapp, PO Box 586, Bronte, TX 76933.

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Alexander Graduates From NASCAR Tech! Josh Alexander has graduated from NASCAR (National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing) Technical Institute in Mooresville, North Carolina. He graduated with 62 classmates in a graduation ceremony November 18, 2005. Josh completed his work in 16 months and was named to the Director's List, signifying that he had a 90 or above average in both his class work and his lab work over a three course period, with each course being three weeks long. The work consisted of basic mechanic work to fabrication, chassis setup and engine design of NASCAR Cup trucks and cars.

Josh is a 2004 graduate of Robert Lee High School. His parents, who attended the graduation ceremony, are Wayne and Beverly Alexander of Robert Lee, and his grandparents are Eddie Alexander and the late Earlene Alexander of Bronte and Nita Graves of Dallas. His future plans are to pursue a career in NASCAR.

Steers win Miles Tournament

In the 1st round of the tournament, Robert Lee defeated San Angelo Central Soph. 52-48. Scoring for the Steers were Josh Gallegos 18, Brandon Soliz 10, Lance Millican 8, Chase Roe 7, Cameron Hodge 4, Josh Conner 3, and Kevin Honse 2.

In the 2nd round the Steers defeated Miles in an exciting game of 48-47. Scoring for the Steers were Brandon Soliz 22, Lance Millican 15, Kevin Honse 6, Brandon Phillips 2, Josh Conner 2, and Cameron Hodge 1.

The Championship game was again against Miles and the Steers got the victory. The 47-44 victory was a last second shot by Brandon Soliz. Scoring were Brandon Soliz 14, Josh Gallegos 12, Lance Millican 7, Josh Conner 6, Brandon Phillips 4, Kevin

Honse 2, and Cameron Hodge 2.
Steers JV wins Sterling City Tournament

Robert Lee opened the tournament with a 29-25 win against the host team Sterling City on Thursday night. Leading the way in scoring was Brody Dillard with 13, followed by Taylor Percifull 10, Jeremy Martinez 4, and Chris LaRue 2.

In the 2nd round, Robert Lee defeated Bronte 37-28. Martinez was high with 15, Percifull 7, Dillard 6, LaRue 4, Luke Thurman 2, Johnathan Pagan 2, and Mason Ross 1.

In the last game, Robert Lee defeated Water Valley. Scores were unavailable at press time.

ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS

Just From Jan

by Jan Yanez
Cooperative Extension Agent

Ten Holiday Survival Tips

*Eat a light, healthy snack such as soup, fruit or cereal before parties. This will help you curb hunger and make better choices

*Limit alcohol. Enjoy one alcoholic beverage if you must and then switch to diet soda or soda with water with lime afterwards

*Bring a low fat holiday dish to the party

*Keep minimal baked goods on hand this year. Only bake enough to give away or use for one festivity. After baking goodies, immediately fill the mixing bowl with hot soapy water, sampling batter packs on extra calories

*Try to eat a large salad before most meals. Make sure vegetables take up half the room on most of your plate

*Substitute healthful ingredients. Substitute sugars works great in baked dishes. Cut the sugar to half the original amount in the recipe and replace the remaining with the substitute sugar

*Make a goal with a friend to lose 5 pounds or to maintain weight during the holidays. This way you have a valuable support buddy.

*Remember the holidays are truly only 3 real days, Thanksgiving, Christmas or Chanukah (which is eight days) and New Year's. Which means if you blow it on only 3 days then you really won't cause much damage.

It's the vicious cycle of not enough exercise and too many calories on the other days that cause weight gain during this time of year.

*Keep up with your exercise

during the holidays and try to be more active

*Finally, celebrate and focus on what the holidays are really about—spending time with family and friends. Find creative activities or ways to get your family and friends to play a game or be active instead of eating. Pick a time to get together that does not revolve around a meal.

Keep safety high on children's gift lists

The colorful ads are enticing, the lists long. Even children who have fought putting pencil to paper all year are spending hours revising and refining their wish lists.

It's the holiday gift giving season.

Along with matching child to toy, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) urges those selecting gifts for children to keep safety in mind. "Just taking a few minutes to think about safety precautions could save a child from injury or death," said Tom Matherly of the DSHS environmental and consumer safety section.

Always read labels attached to toys or clothing, Matherly said, especially for age recommendations. A label will tell a consumer two critical things: if a toy is not safe for younger children and why it is not safe.

"Even the brightest child should not be given a toy labeled specifically for an older child," he said. "Toys meant for older children may have parts or strings that can choke or strangle a younger child."

A quick test will help determine if toy parts are a choking hazard, Matherly said. "Take the cardboard tube from a roll of toilet paper," he said. "If the part

can pass through the tube, it could choke a child."

Matherly also suggests that shoppers buy the appropriate protective gear to complement sporting equipment. "Always give a safety helmet with a bicycle," he said. "Or if you give skates, be sure to include a helmet and pads for the wrists, elbows, knees and shins."

Other tips are:

*Be sure the instructions are understandable to the buyer and, when appropriate, the child.

*Look for sturdy construction such as tightly secured eyes, noses, buttons and other small parts.

*For an infant, buy large rattles, teething and squeeze toys that cannot get stuck in the child's throat.

*Do not buy toys with small parts or items such as marbles, small balls or balloons for children under 3.

*For children under 8, avoid electric toys with heating elements and toys with sharp edges and points.

*If you buy arrows or darts, be sure they have rubber suction cups or flexible, protective tips that stay secured when used. If your children receive arrows or darts, teach them how to play with them safely. Arrows and darts are not recommended for children under 5.

*Discard plastic wrappings on toys immediately, before they become deadly playthings.

"Most of safe toy buying is common sense," Matherly said. "Make sure the toy is safe for the child's age, and that it is well constructed, durable and suited to a child's physical and mental development while still being appealing and interesting."

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DLC Realty

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Carson Bennett

Carson lived and worked as a Deputy Sheriff for Nolan County until 1992, continues to be employed in law enforcement, and lives with his wife and two children outside of the Bronte Community. Carson has an extensive background in Farm and Ranch Properties and would like to be of assistance in any of your real estate needs.

Give Carson a call at: 325/277-3006 (cell) or email: carson@davislandandcattle.com

Office: 325/754-1108

Property availabilities at: davislandandcattle.com

OWNER/BROKER:

BRYAN DAVIS



DLC

REALTY

I would like to announce my candidacy for re-election as Coke County Commissioner, Precinct 2.

Your vote and support will be greatly appreciated.

Bill Wheat
Coke County Commissioner
Precinct 2

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

School Menu



Breakfast

Monday, Dec. 19
Juice, donut, cereal, milk
Tuesday, Dec. 20
Juice, pop tart, cereal, milk
Wed., Dec. 21
Happy Holidays!

Lunch

Monday, Dec. 19
Pizza, corn, applesauce, teddy grahams, milk
Tuesday, Dec. 20
Chicken sandwich, pickles, tator tots, pork & beans, pears, milk
Wed., Dec. 21
Happy Holidays!

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF COKE
ORDER RESTRICTING
OUTDOOR BURNING**

WHEREAS, The Commissioners Court finds that circumstances present in all or part of the unincorporated area of the county create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Coke County that outdoor burning is restricted in the unincorporated area of the county for 90 days from the date of adoption of this Order, unless the restrictions are terminated earlier based on a determination made by the Texas Forest Service or this Court. This Order is adopted pursuant to Local Government Code #352.081, and other applicable statutes. This Order does not prohibit outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Natural Resources Commission for: (1) firefighter training; (2) public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations; (3) planting or harvesting of agricultural crops; or (4) burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager certified under Section 153.048 Natural Resources Code, and meet the standards of Section 153.047, Natural Resources Code. In accordance with Local Government #352.081(h), a violation of this Order is a class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

ADOPTED this 12th day of December, 2005

Roy Blair, County Judge

Attest:

Mary Grim, County Clerk

22-1tc

**NOTICE TO
CONTRACTORS OF
PROPOSED TEXAS
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
(TxDOT) CONTRACTS**

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: San Angelo Contract 0034-03-016 for SEAL COAT in RUNNELS County, etc will be opened on January 10, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the State Office. Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 18641

State Office
Constr./Maint. Division

200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540
Dist/Div Office(s)
San Angelo District
District Engineer
4502 Knickerbocker Rd
San Angelo, Texas 76904
Phone: 325-944-1501

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

21-2tc

**NOTICE OF SALE
THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF COKE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. Proc. 647, et seq. that certain real estate is being levied upon and shall be sold under writ of execution on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2006. The auction sale shall occur pursuant to that certain Writ of Execution issued by the office of Mary Grim, District Clerk, Coke County, Texas, on the 22nd day of November, 2005.

WHEREAS, judgment creditors Perry Kehrer and wife Jo Kehrer, obtained a

final judgment against Defendant Jay W. Travis. On September 1st, 2005, cause No. 04-4110, styled W Perry Kehrer and wife Jo Kehrer vs. Jay W. Travis in the 51st District Court of Coke County, Texas.

WHEREAS, the Final Judgment in Cause No. 04-4110 was in favor of Perry Kehrer and wife Jo Kehrer and against Defendant Jay W. Travis, jointly and severally, for the principal amount of \$21,840.00 balance of principal owing as of June 1, 2004. \$1,346.80 prejudgment interest at the rate of 6% per annum, beginning July 1st, 2004 to day of judgment. \$294.00 in court cost, \$503.35 in real property taxes for 2004 and Attorney fees in the amount of \$3,634.38, and \$740.13 post-judgment interest at the rate of 10% per annum, beginning September 1, 2005 to date of sale.

WHEREAS, the principal amount of judgment, with all accrued pre-judgment interest, post-judgment interest, and costs of court will total, as of Tuesday, January 3, 2005, the amount of 28,358.66.

WHEREAS, the final judgment in Cause No. 04-

4110 was abstracted pursuant to that certain Abstract of Judgment filed on September 8, 2005, at 3:47 pm, recorded September 8, 2005, Volume 38, Page 397 of the OPR Records of Coke County Texas.

WHEREAS, the above-referenced Writ of Execution has been placed in the hands of Rick Styles, Sheriff of Coke County, Texas, to levy upon certain real estate, situated in Coke County, Texas. The property which is being levied upon, and which will be sold at public auction on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2006, is described as follows: (1) Property located at 406 West 11th Street, Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas, 76945, more particularly described as "Lot number 2 Block number 10, AUSTIN AND NORTHERN LAND AND CATTLE ADDITION to the town of Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas, according to the major plat of said addition and town now on file in the office of the County Clerk of Coke County, Texas, together with the certain Fleetwood Homes of Texas, Inc. manufactured home, Model Wingate, Serial Number

TXFL1AF018603802.

The above-referenced real estate, property of Jay W. Travis shall be levied on January 3, 2006, at 10:00 am. On the first Tuesday of January, 2006, the same being the 3rd day of January 2006, the property shall be sold at the Courthouse door of Coke County, Texas of the city of Robert Lee, Texas between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm. By virtue of said levy and said Writ of Execution, I, Rick Styles, Sheriff of Coke County, Texas, will offer for sale and sell at public venue, for cash, to the highest bidder, all the right, title, and interest of Jay W. Travis in said property.

In compliance with Tex. R. Civ. Proc. 647, I give this notice by publication, in the English Language, once a week for three consecutive weeks immediately preceding the day of sale, in the Observer/Enterprise, a newspaper published and distributed in Coke County.

Witness my hand, this 6th day of December, 2005.

Rick Styles, Sheriff
of Coke County, Texas

21-3tc

Tommy E. Neal
Investment Representative

Edward Jones®



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453-2060

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Robert Lee, Texas 453-2522

IVEY MOTOR COMPANY, INC.

2004 Ford F-150 Super Cab XL #7020 \$14,995 <i>Toreador Red • V6 • 5 Speed • 27,000 Miles • Gas Saver!</i>	2004 Chevy 2500 Extended Cab LS #F132B \$24,995 <i>Pewter • 40,000 Miles • Duramax Diesel</i>
2002 Mercury Grand Marquis LS #7022A \$11,995 <i>Satin Silver w/Gray Leather • Excellent Condition</i>	2004 Ford F-250 Crew Cab Lariat #F152A \$25,995 <i>White • Short Bed • Powerstroke • Replacement Front Bumper</i>
2001 Ford Excursion Limited #4757A \$16,995 <i>White w/Arizona Beige Trim • V-10 • Leather</i>	1995 Ford F-250 Super Cab XLT #4751B \$ 5,995 <i>Toreador Red • V8 • Good Work Truck</i>
1994 Dodge Ram Van Extended #7004A \$ 2,995 <i>Maroon • 15 Passenger • People Hauler!</i>	2003 Ford Windstar SE #7006A \$12,995 <i>White • Quad Captains Chairs • 36,000 Miles</i>
2005 Ford Focus ZX4 #F145A \$11,995 <i>White • 4 Door • Automatic • PW/PL/CD • 21,000 Miles</i>	2005 Ford Escape XLT #7011 \$18,995 <i>Silver • All Wheel Drive • 22,000 Miles</i>
1999 Ford F-250 Super Cab 4x4 #4801A \$15,995 <i>Silver • XLT • Powerstroke • Automatic</i>	2005 Ford Freestar SE #7014 \$17,995 <i>White • 3rd Row Seat • Rear Air • 24,000 Miles</i>
2005 Ford Taurus SE #7017A \$13,495 <i>Spruce Green • V6 • Automatic • 26,000 Miles</i>	2002 Ford F-150 Super Crew #E214A \$12,995 <i>White w/tan interior • 5.4 V8 • XLT</i>
2003 Ford F-150 Super Cab XLT 4x4 #E166A \$16,995 <i>White w/Gray Cloth Interior • 5.4 V8 • Automatic</i>	2004 Ford Taurus SES #4761V \$12,495 <i>Silver • 29,000 Miles • Excellent Condition!</i>
2001 Ford F-150 Super Crew Lariat #7993B \$16,995 <i>Dark Blue • 66,000 Miles • Off Road Special!</i>	2001 Ford F-150 Super Cab XLT #F144A \$ 9,995 <i>Maroon • V8 • 81,000 Miles • Nice Truck</i>
1996 Ford Econoline Van E-150 #E176A \$ 2,995 <i>Silver • Great Work Vehicle!</i>	
2002 Ford F-250 Crew Cab XLT #F154A \$17,595 <i>White • Long Bed • Powerstroke • Great Condition!</i>	
2005 Mercury Mountaineer AWD #7018 \$21,495 <i>Satin Silver w/2 tone leather heated seats • 21,000 Miles</i>	
2001 Ford F-150 Super Crew #4777A \$14,495 <i>Arizona Beige • 5.4 V8 • 68,000 Miles • XLT!</i>	
2002 Ford F-150 Super Cab XLT #D270A \$12,995 <i>White • 7,700 GVW Package • Great for Towing!</i>	
2003 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer #F110A \$18,995 <i>White w/Arizona Beige Trim • Leather Interior</i>	

We want to wish all of our customers and friends a safe and happy holiday season!

Ask For: **453-4561**
Randy Flanagan • Billy Wayne Roe



McMullan Takes Mule Deer! Arlis McMullan brought down this mule deer on a ranch south of Dryden, Texas, near the Rio Grande River. He took this deer Thursday, December 8, 2005, at a distance of 300 yards using a 270 rifle in 19 degree weather. Arlis is the 13 year old son of David and Mary McMullan of Bronte.

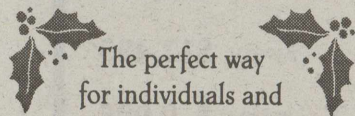
Sorosis Study Club enjoys Christmas Party

Members and their guests of the Sorosis Study Club of Bronte enjoyed a festive Christmas party in the fellowship hall of First Baptist Church on Thursday, December 8. A delicious dinner was provided by the club and members. After participation in a game, white elephant gifts were exchanged.

Members present were: Swan Archinal, Marilyn Bivins, Jane Cumbie, Glenda Draper, Mary Glenn, Peggy Hembree, Diane Lockett, Earline Moore, Fredna Moore, LouAnna Peters, Doris Sims, Jane Wheat, and Janet Wommack.

Country Christmas by Driftwood is huge success!

The local band, Driftwood, blessed citizens of Robert Lee last Sunday night with their performance of various Christmas songs. Robert Lee Baptist Church hosted the



The perfect way for individuals and businesses to greet their clients, customers, friends, and neighbors this holiday season is with a personalized greeting in this year's Christmas issue of



Ad Deadline
Tuesday December 20

event, which filled the church's sanctuary.

To further support the community efforts in helping those in need, an offering was taken for the Coke County Food Pantry.

Following the event was a wonderful time of fellowship with friends and food. Daryl Copeland, who led the program, said the group will play for a dance New Year's Eve at the Recreation Hall in Robert Lee. For more information, contact Buck Duncan or Daryl Copeland.

As a ministry of Robert Lee Baptist Church, copies of the program are available on DVDs in limited numbers. If you would like a copy, call the church office at 453-2724 and reserve yours today.

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.

**To The Voters in
Coke County Precinct 4**

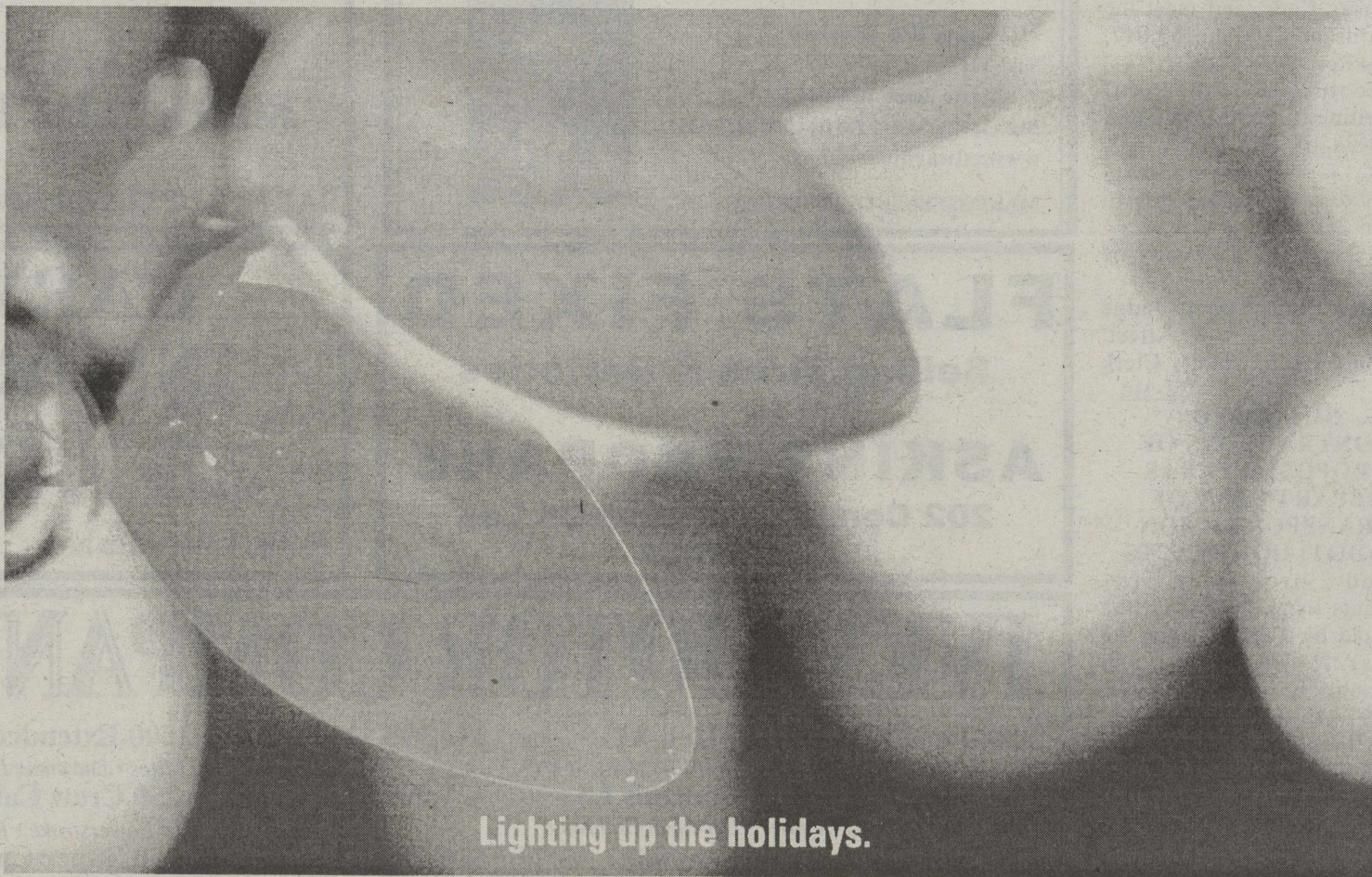
**I am announcing my candidacy for
Coke County Commissioner, Pct 4.**

**We greatly appreciate your vote and
support in the March 7 Democratic
Primary election.**

**Thank You
Bobby Blaylock**

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Bobby Blaylock, PO Box 522, Bronte, TX 76933

5:35 p.m. Thursday



Lighting up the holidays.

As you begin using decorative lighting in and around your home this holiday season, AEP Texas reminds you to keep safety in mind. Check light strings for frayed cords, and use only UL-approved lights and extension cords. Remember not to overload circuits, and remind children not to touch lights or outlets. And on behalf of all of us here at AEP Texas, please enjoy a safe, bright holiday season with your family and friends. **AEP Texas is there, always working for you.**



For more information about electrical safety, visit aep.com