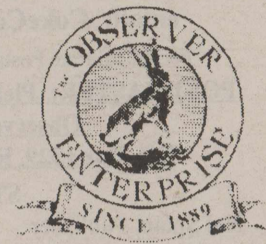


# THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Serving Coke & Sterling Counties



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

Vol. 120, No. 19

Friday, November 23, 2007

## Medicare Part D Prescription Plan Enrollment slated

Medicare Part D prescription plan enrollment will be available at the Robert Lee Senior Center, 1402 County Park Rd. (Austin St.), Robert Lee, on November 30, 2007 from 9:30 am to 3 pm.

Patsy Fernandez, Benefits Counselor from Area Agency on Aging, will provide enrollment assistance to seniors needing help with their 2008 Medicare Part D Plan.

Please call Susan Millegan at 325-453-2314, Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, to make an appointment.

## Santa letter deadline set for December 3

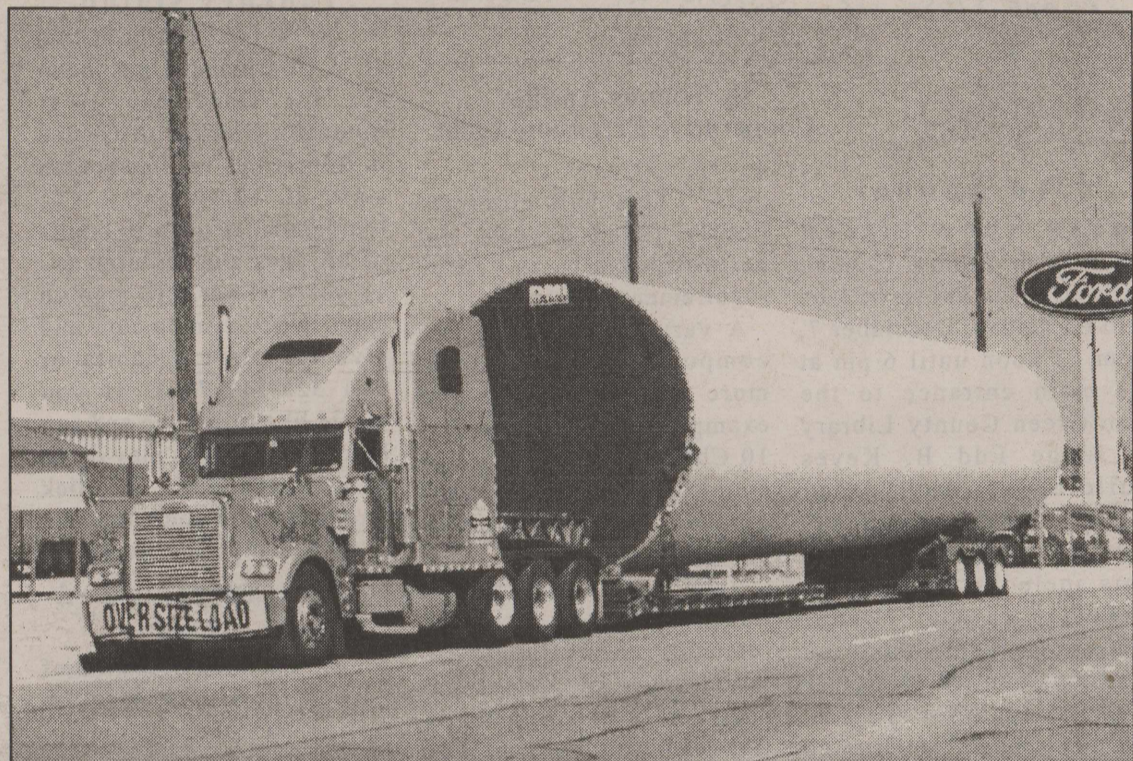
Deadline for Letters to Santa Claus to be printed in this year's edition has been set for Monday, December 3. As in the past, we will go by the schools and pick up their Letters to Santa for inclusion in the Christmas paper on December 21. We will forward these letters straight to Santa after we get through typing them up for the paper. This is why we have to have them early. 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 17 to be 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.

## Ft. Chadbourne Christmas Social slated for Dec. 15

Fort Chadbourne Foundation will once again host an 1850's Christmas Social, on Saturday, December 15, 2007, from 5:30 pm to 9 pm. Everyone is invited to attend. There is no admission fee. The Fort will be aglow with lights and activities. Refreshments will be served by women dressed in 1850's attire, along with live reenactments of Christmas in an Officers' Quarters, cavalry, night time cannon fire, buggy rides, hay rides, and of course we can't forget Santa who will be arriving for the kids at 6 pm. The barracks has warm fires, and if it's a cold evening there are fire pits on the parade grounds for everyone to stay warm. There will be door prizes, and if you want to stock up on some goodies for Christmas, there will also



**County wind generators arrive!** County residents have seen many wind generator units traveling through the county over the past year, but the ones shown here are the first windmill units which will be erected in Coke County. These units were traveling through Robert Lee on November 8, 2007, and were coming from Fargo, North Dakota. According to County Judge Roy Blair, the first units in the county will be erected on the Sterling County divide, on the north side of Hwy. 158 and south of the Colorado River. Judge Blair stated that 10% of these units will be in Sterling County, with 90% to be erected in Coke County, on the Jim Terry and Copeland Ranches. Edison Mission, who bought out the Cielo Wind Power contracts in Coke County, is the contractor for the project. Scheduled starting dates for construction are around the middle of November, with a completion date for the project set for midyear of 2008.

be a bake sale.

The local kids' artwork will be on display, and winners of the coloring contest from each grade will be announced. There will be plenty of games, prizes, and refreshments for the children.

The Ice House Brass Quintet from San Angelo, who was a huge hit last year, will again be set up on the front porch playing period and Christmas music.

Everyone from Coke County and the surrounding area is invited to attend. There is no charge for this festive evening. Over 300 folks attended last year, and we hope this year even more will come and join us for this very unique and fun Frontier Christmas Social.

Fort Chadbourne is located 10 miles north of Bronte on Highway 277. For more information call 325) 743-2555.

## New Livestock and Crop Disaster Programs

Coke and Sterling County agriculture producers who suffered losses caused by natural disasters in 2005, 2006, and 2007 are reminded to sign up for three new ad hoc disaster programs. Currently, applications are being accepted for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Crop Disaster Program (CDP). Eligible ranchers and other

livestock producers can apply to receive benefits through the LCP and LIP programs. Sign-up began September 10, 2007. Sign-up for the CDP program began October 15, 2007, and applies to farmers who suffered quantity losses to their crops. Sign-up end dates for these programs will be announced at a future date. USDA will also announce a sign-up for quality losses soon.

Although ending dates for the sign-up periods have not yet been announced, it is important for producers to apply for benefits as soon as possible. Timely applications will ensure that producers receive timely payments.

For more information concerning FSA disaster assistance and to schedule an appointment, please call the Coke/Sterling County Farm Service Office at 325) 453-2751. Detailed program information about LCP, LIP, and CDP is also available in a fact sheet titled, Agricultural Assistance Act of 2007, which can be found on FSA's website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. Then click on Disaster Assistance Programs.



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 Per Year in Coke & Sterling Counties.....\$25.00  
 Per Year Elsewhere in Texas.....\$30.00  
 Per Year Outside of Texas.....\$32.00



**COUNTRY AGENTS NEWS**

**By Tommy Antilley  
 Cooperative Extension Agent**

**43rd Annual Pecan Show slated**

The 43rd Annual Concho Valley Pecan Show will be held on Friday, December 7, from 12 noon until 6 pm at the main entrance to the Tom Green County Library in Judge Edd B. Keyes Building. Any pecan grower in the area may submit entries to the show. This includes Tom Green, Coke, Concho, Irion, McCulloch, Schleicher, and Sterling Counties. No entry limit per exhibitor is made, but participants are limited to one entry of each named variety they grow. The grower may enter as many seedlings, known hybrids or natives as he wishes. The exhibitor must be grower. Entries must be received by 12 noon on Wednesday, December 5, in the Tom Green County Extension Office on the second floor of the Judge Edd B. Keyes Building or any participating County Extension Office.

A minimum of 42 pecans are necessary for each entry. This sample of 42 should represent the variety or individual seedling tree and be uniform in size and shell color. Mixed samples - more than one variety in an entry - are disqualified.

The grower may wish to select the heaviest pecans by weighing individual

nuts. This will eliminate poorly filled pecans, but certainly isn't an entry requirement.

A varietal entry may be composed of nuts from more than one tree. For example, if the grower has 10 Choctaw trees, each tree could contribute nuts to the grower's one Choctaw entry.

Nuts should be free of dust, dirt, and shuck remnants. They should not be buffed to the extent that shape or color is altered. Discolored shells and kernels may result from peeling pecans from the shucks too early. Pecans must be from the 2007 crop. Judging is based on the size of the pecans, appearance, and kernel quality which includes color, percent kernel (as relative to shell) and percent edible kernel.

Final judging will begin at 9 am on December 7, 2007. Decisions and placings by the judges will be final. Pecans will be left on display from 11 am to 4 pm, Friday December 7, in the Tom Green County Library foyer in the Judge Edd Keyes Building, 113 W. Beauregard. Winning entries in each class may be considered for entering in the West Texas Regional Pecan Show to be held on December 11 in Taylor County in Abilene.

**Kickapoo Water Board sets election**

Coke County Kickapoo Water Control and Improvement District #1 will hold an election on January 8, 2008, for the purpose of electing two directors.

Directors filing for reelection to the board are Bob Ragsdale and Jack Corley. The election will be held at Bronte City Hall.

For further information concerning the election, contact President Gerald Sandusky by 5 pm on Monday, November 26, 2007.

**Adult/Child Golf Tournney slated**

A WTJCT Adult/Child Golf Tournament has been set for December 1 at Mountain Creek Golf Course in Robert Lee with a shotgun start at 10:30 am. The tournament is open to adults of all ages and children 6 - 18 years of age. To sign up email wtjct@yahoo.com and give the players names or call 325-212-7901. If you would like to sign up and pay by credit card you may do so at www.wtjct.com, just click on Adult/Child Tournament.

**RLVFD to host silent auction and open house**

By Mark Sides, Chief

Bring the family, tour the station, see the equipment, and meet your neighbors.

The Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Department will hold a silent-auction fundraiser during the open house on Monday, December 17, 2007 from 6:30 pm until 9 pm.

Items up for bid include gift cards from Academy



**Christmas Decorations!** Eighteen new candy cane Christmas pole decorations are up for the holiday season in Robert Lee. The candy canes were purchased with economic development funds. The Robert Lee Economic Development 4B board budgeted for partial replacement for the next several years.

The original Christmas tree decorations the City crew now puts up were purchased used in the late 1970's or early 1980's by the service sorority Alpha Kappa Pi with funds raised through sales of bean soup at \$1 a jar and \$1 raffles for quilts, with both items being made and sold by the members. The fundraiser lasted several years.

Last year the City Secretary and her daughter, with help from Robert Lee High School volunteers, spray painted the Christmas trees and replaced all the lights to get a few more years service out of them.

The Candy Canes were chosen because they were the least wind resistant, had the fewest parts which could be bent or broken, were most convenient to store, and had hardware attached. Some of the old hardware is still usable, but main pole attachments were coming loose.

Shown putting up the new decorations are Robert Lee City employees, Stephen Cantrell (left) and Billy Williams.

Sports and Outdoors, and Big 5 Sporting Goods, a 5 gallon propane tank with free initial fill from Askins Propane and a copy of A Texas Christmas from This 'N That Shop.

Firefighters will be on hand to provide valuable information on fire safety and fire prevention. Free

public information items will include pot holders, jar openers, and fire safety stickers for the kids.

Hot dogs, chili dogs, chips, water, and soft drinks will be served during the open house. Custom made, reflective, 911 address signs will be available for purchase.

**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

Dale Patterson, 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. David Bailey, Pastor  
 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. George Bradley, 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

**St. James Catholic Church**  
 215 N. Washington, Bronte  
 (325) 365-2687

Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor  
 Sun. 5 pm

**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  
**Northside Church of Christ**  
 PO Box 508 • 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) 453-2482

Jim Dominey, Pastor  
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School  
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship

**Robert Lee Baptist Church**  
 PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th  
 (325) 453-2724

Jason Martin, Pastor  
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School  
 11 am & 6 pm, Worship

Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting  
**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. Irving Smith, Pastor  
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School  
 10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship

Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting

**To God be the Glory  
 Great things He has done!**

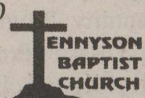
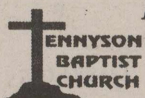
*Come and see what God is doing at  
 Tennyson Baptist Church  
 As we rededicate our  
 newly remodeled church*

**Sunday, November 25, 2007  
 11 am**

*Also join us for lunch following the service*

*Located on Highway 277  
 18 miles north of San Angelo*

(325) 473-2040



**HAPPY  
 THANKSGIVING**



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 to reflect on the  
 things for which  
 we're truly grateful.  
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 season and every day,  
 we wish you all the  
 very best.*

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**Edward Jones**  
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

**JOBStart Program set to begin Jan. 12**

The Youth Advisory Group of the Concho Valley Workforce Development Board has slated a six unit course titled Jobstart. Jobstart seeks to train youth in personal empowerment and gives participants extensive training on the fundamental skills needed to live independently as an adult.

The JOBStart Program is comprised of six units taught on six core elements pertaining to topics ranging from "Personal and Interpersonal Skills" to "Planning for the Future." Jobstart is held on six Saturday's beginning January 12 - February 16.

For additional information and registration go to [www.cvworkforce.org](http://www.cvworkforce.org) or call 655-2005. Registration Deadline is December 21, 2007.

**Alcohol-Impaired Driving Over Holidays Can Destroy Dreams for Texas Families**

The holiday season is a great time to visit family, but few adult gatherings are alcohol-free. This means that more people may be driving impaired than other times of the year.

A study of information from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis shows the days immediately preceding Christmas are among the top deadliest vehicle fatality days of the year. The Thanksgiving holidays supply another surge upward in traffic deaths.

In Texas, the risk may be higher than in other states, based on the state's past record. According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Texas ranked number one in alcohol-related crashes in 2006. More than 1,500 Texans who lost their lives in traffic crashes in 2005 had alcohol in their blood at the time of the accident.

Central Texas counties lost more than 219 citizens to alcohol-related traffic accidents in 2006. Travis County has the highest number of alcohol-related crashes of the central region, at 64 in 2006. The Texas counties with the highest rates per 100,000 are Wheeler County (103), Roberts County (120)




**Big buck from the Double J Ranch!** Jerod Hefner of Odessa took this nice 8-point buck on November 10, 2007, from his grandmother's (Glenda Mathers) Double J Ranch in Robert Lee. Mark Wright of Wildcat Taxidermy, who is doing the shoulder mount, scored the buck a B&C 135. Mark estimated the nice buck to be 5 1/2 to 6 years old. Also shown with Jerod is his daughter Kelsee.

and Oldham County (140).

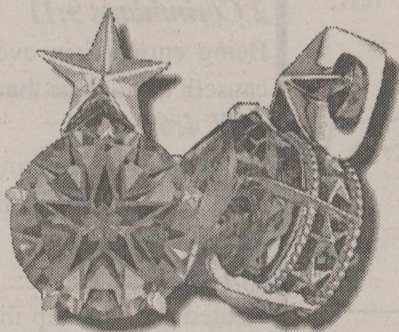
"You never want to lose a family member to an accident, but losing one around a family holiday just makes the pain worse," stated Ryan Thorpe, Director of Admissions at Narconon Arrowhead, one of the country's leading drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers, located in Canadian, Oklahoma. "Any family member who can't make rational choices when it comes to alcohol use needs immediate help to prevent such disasters. At Narconon, we have been helping people overcome substance abuse problems for the last forty years. With 70 percent of those we have helped

remaining substance-free two years after graduation, we have helped to make the holiday season safer for everyone."

Mr. Thorpe pointed out that during the holidays, requests for help that Narconon receives increase. "A survey of families coming to us for help found that 73 percent experience more problems, upsets and emotionally traumatic situations during the holiday season than any other part of the year. The right moment to get an addicted person help is really the very first moment you can and no later. You want to avoid any possibility that they will add to the traffic


  
 You are invited to help celebrate  
 the 95th birthday of  
**Wilson Bryan**  
 Saturday, November 24 • 2 pm - 4 pm  
 Little Rec Hall • Robert Lee

**Not all ornaments are for the trees**



Vivid blue star cut topaz in our exclusive star design setting. The truest reflection of your Texas heritage! 14 karat white or yellow gold. Starting at \$525.





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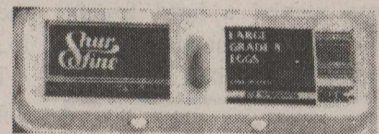
Bone In • Shank Portion  
**Cooks Ham**  
**\$1.19** Lb.



  
Asst. 1 Lb. Roll  
\$1.79

Regular or Hot  
**Owens Sausage**  
**\$2.99** 2 Lb. Roll

Grade A  
**Shurfine Eggs**  
**\$ .99** Dozen



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

Garden Fresh  
Crisp  
**Celery**  
**3 for / \$1**

Miller Lite or  
**Coors Light**  
18 Pack Cans  
**\$12.59**



Reg., Light or Select  
**Budweiser Beer**  
20 Pack Bottles  
**\$13.99**



**MOUNTAIN CREEK MERCANTILE**  
1/4 mile east of Robert Lee  
453-2731

**Menu**  
Monday, Nov. 26  
Chicken A La King  
Tuesday, Nov. 27  
Sausage & Sauerkraut  
Wednesday, Nov. 28  
Meatloaf  
Thursday, Nov. 29  
Pot Roast  
Friday, Nov. 30  
Smothered Steak

# ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS

## Robert Lee High School Basketball Schedule

November 27	Winters	Here	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
Nov. 29-Dec. 1	Irion Co. Tourney	There	TBA	V Girls & Boys
December 1	RL JV Tourney	Here	TBA	JV Girls & Boys
December 4	Miles	There	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
December 6-8	Miles Tourney	There	TBA	V Girls & Boys
December 6 & 8	Sterling City JV Tourn.	There	TBA	JV Girls & Boys
December 11	Paint Rock	Here	5:00	JV Boys, V Girls & Boys
December 14	Westbrook	Here	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
December 18	Roby	There	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
December 27-29	Sterling City Tourn.	There	TBA	V Girls & Boys
January 3	Winters	There	6:00	JV & V Boys
* January 4	Water Valley	Here	6:00	JV & V Girls
January 5	Bronte JV Tourn.	There	TBA	JV Girls & Boys
* January 8	Sterling City	There	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
* January 11	Garden City	Here	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
* January 15	Blackwell	There	6:30	V Girls & Boys
* January 17	Bronte	Here	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
* January 22	Water Valley	There	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
* January 25	Sterling City	Here	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
* January 29	Garden City	There	4:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
* February 1	Blackwell	Here	6:30	V Girls & Boys
* February 5	Bronte	There	5:00	JV & V Girls & Boys
* February 8	Water Valley	Here	6:00	JV & V Boys

\* Denotes District Games

## RL Steers end playoffs against Ropes Eagles

By Tom Sawyer

Our Robert Lee Steers ended the 6-man football season with a Bi-District loss to Ropes. The Steers played a hard fought game that went back and forth the whole game but didn't end

the way we wanted it to. I know we will miss this great group of seniors but not to fear there are more good kids ready to step into their shoes.

Thank you coaches, fans, players, cheerleaders, and band for all your support this season and lastly to the ones who helped me at all the games, Kevin, Jamie and Molly, see y'all at the next Steer and Lady Steer game.

Go Steers! Steer Pride!  
Go Rompin' Stompin'  
Steer Band!

### Scoring Summary

**1st Quarter**  
Ropes - 21 yard pass with 7:35 left, PAT kick good;  
Robert Lee - Martin 19 yard run with 5:29 left, Gallegos kick;  
Ropes - 20 yard pass with 3:06 left, PAT kick good.  
Robert Lee - 8

**2nd Quarter**  
Ropes - 16  
Robert Lee - Gallegos 5 yard run with 9:19 left, Gallegos kick;  
Ropes - 16 yard pass with 3:08 left, PAT kick good;  
Ropes - 15 yard pass with 2:57 left, PAT kick good;  
Robert Lee - Gallegos 18 yard run with 1:44 left, Gallegos kick;

Robert Lee - Hodge 26 yard run with :14 left, PAT kick failed.  
Robert Lee - 30  
Ropes - 32

**3rd Quarter**  
Ropes - 15 yard pass with 6:10 left, PAT kick good;  
Robert Lee - 20 yard pass from Dillard to Gallegos with 4:07 Left, Gallegos kick.  
Robert Lee - 38  
Ropes - 40

**4th Quarter**  
Ropes - 1 yard run with 3:08 left, PAT kick good;  
Robert Lee - Gallegos 22 yard run with 1:49 left, Gallegos Kick.  
Robert Lee - 46  
Ropes - 48

## School Menu

### Breakfast

**Monday, Nov. 26**  
Pigs in blanket, juice, milk  
**Tuesday, Nov. 27**  
Cereal, biscuit, juice, milk  
**Wednesday, Nov. 28**  
Cinnamon roll, cereal, juice, milk  
**Thursday, Nov. 29**  
Burrito, juice, milk  
**Friday, Nov. 30**  
Cereal, toast, juice, milk

### Lunch

**Monday, Nov. 26**  
Frito pie, salad, corn on cob, apple, crackers, milk  
**Tuesday, Nov. 27**  
Burrito, salad, tator tots, orange, graham crackers, milk  
**Wednesday, Nov. 28**  
Steak fingers, creamed potatoes, green peas, sliced bread, peaches, milk  
**Thursday, Nov. 28**  
Chicken strips, gravy, scalloped potatoes, green peas, sliced bread, milk  
**Friday, Nov. 30**  
Hotdog, chili, cheese, pork & beans, baked chips, carrot sticks, fruit cocktail, milk

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Robert Lee, Texas

### Steer Statistics

Percifull - 1 reception for 7 yards, and 7 tackles;  
Martinez - 1 reception for 4 yards;  
B. Dillard - 3 carries for -14 yards, 2 of 3 passing for 28 yards and 1 TD and 11 tackles;  
Gallegos - 20 carries for 185 yards and 3 TD's, 2 of 6 passing for 11 yards, 2 receptions for 28 yards and 1 TD, and 7 tackles;  
Philly - 1 tackle;  
Nesbit - 1 tackle;  
Hodge - 11 carries for 141 yards and 1 TD, 4 tackles;  
C. Roe - 3 tackles;  
Martin - 3 carries for 29 yards and 1 TD, 6 tackles.  
**GO STEERS! STEER PRIDE!**  
Congratulations District Champions!

### Lady Steers results

The Lady Steers played against Tree of Life Church (TLC) on November 13 and earned a win. Scoring for Robert Lee included Kasie Skinner, 16; Arrin Minjarez, 12; Molli Hinderliter, 13; Molly Burns, 2; and Mandy Mendoza, 5. The Lady Steers won 48 to 26.

### RL Dogies results

The Lady Dogies A and B teams both played Water Valley here. Both teams came out on top. Scoring for the RL Lady Dogie B team was Dusty Howard with 8 points and Diana Vera with 6 points. The final score for the Lady Dogies B team was 14 to 12.

The A team won their game 31 to 30. Scoring for this game were: Kimberly Roach, 4; Victoria Roe, 6; Rachel Rojas, 5; Luisa Carrera, 6; and Linsey Vallery, 10.

The Dogies also played here against Water Valley. The final score was Dogies 30 to Water Valley's 32.

Scoring for the Dogies were: Justin Gartman, 10; Zach Skinner, 1; Cooper Hinderliter, 8; Jonah Saucedo, 4; Tyler Henderson, 2; and Zachary Sanchez, 5.

## Clay Antilley Memorial Scholarship Fund established

The Clay Antilley Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established at the San Angelo Area Foundation in memory of Clay Kennedy Antilley of Robert Lee, an avid member of 4-H and FFA, who attended as many stock shows as was possible. The San Angelo Area Foundation will be accepting scholarship applications for this fund in the spring of 2008.

To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must be a graduate of a Coke County high school located in Coke County, Texas, and have been a resident student of said high school for three consecutive semesters beginning the junior year. In addition, the student must demonstrate outstanding achievement in a Coke County FFA or 4-H club and participated in school, community and agriculture related organizations. Scholarship applications will be available on our website January 1, and are due to the Foundation office by March 1.

To obtain more information about this and other scholarships at the San Angelo Area Foundation, please visit our website at [www.saafound.org](http://www.saafound.org). Memorial contributions to this fund may be made online or may be mailed to the Clay Antilley Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o San Angelo Area Foundation, 2201 Sherwood Way, Suite 205, San Angelo, Texas 76901.

## Let Us Give Thanksgiving Unto The Lord

### Psalm 69:30

I will praise the name of God with a song; and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

### Psalm 116:17

I will offer unto thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.

### Jonah 2:9

But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.

### 2 Corinthians 4:15

For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many rebound to the glory of God.

### 2 Corinthians 9:11

Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

### Phil. 4:6

Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

### Col. 2:17

Rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

### Col. 4:2

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.

### Psalm 100:4

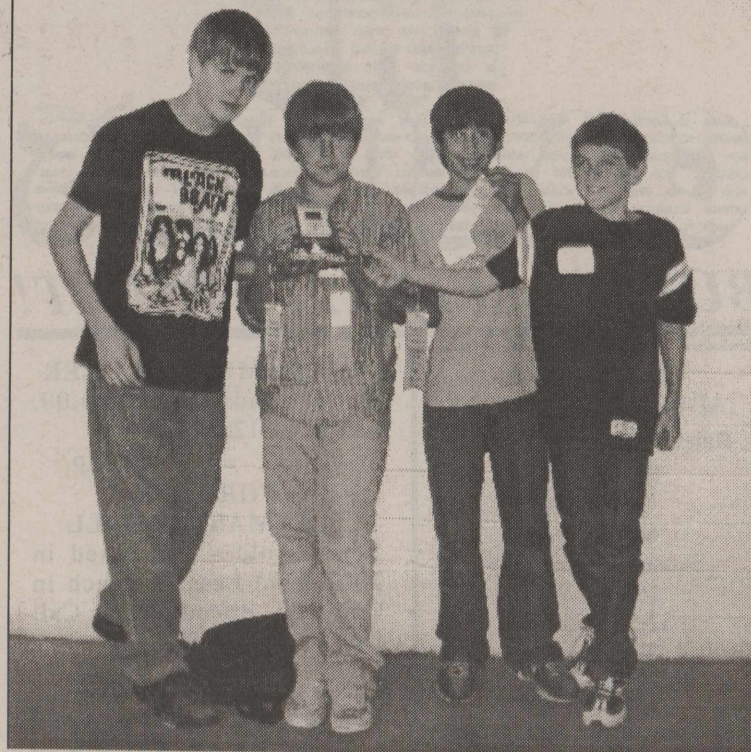
Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise, be thankful unto Him and bless His name.

**Victory Assembly of God**  
Corner of 6th & Houston • Robert Lee  
Pastor Irving Smith

# BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS



**Robotics!** The Division II team "Bow Chicka Wow Wow" from Bronte Junior High was one of the teams who placed at the fourth annual Education Service Center 15's Robotics Competition on Monday, November 12. The team consists of (from left to right) Thoren Charles, Jael Williams, Brook Bedford and Kaitlyn Braswell.



**Robotics!** This Bronte Junior High Division II team "Domo Origato" was one of the teams who placed at the fourth annual Education Service Center 15's Robotics Competition on Monday, November 12. The team consists of (from left to right) Caleb Rosson, Ethan Sedden, Mario Delarosa and Kyle Kelton.



**Robotics!** This Bronte High School team, "The Bakalakadaka's", placed at the fourth annual Education Service Center 15's Robotics Competition in Division I on Monday, November 12. The team consists of (from left to right) Kerwin Rawls, Heath Richey and Chase Harris.

## BISD places at Robotics Contest

Thirteen Robotics Teams from Bronte ISD, 3 teams in



- Breakfast**
- Monday, Nov. 26**  
Cereal, apple sauce, toast, jelly, milk
  - Tuesday, Nov. 27**  
Pop tart, biscuit, jelly, juice, milk
  - Wednesday, Nov. 28**  
Sausage roll, juice, milk
  - Thursday, Nov. 29**  
Breakfast pizza, juice, milk
  - Friday, Nov. 30**  
Pancake and sausage on a stick, juice, milk
- Lunch**
- Monday, Nov. 26**  
Chicken nuggets, gravy, creamed potatoes, green beans, roll, rosie apple sauce, milk
  - Tuesday, Nov. 27**  
Taco with cheese, lettuce, tomato, Spanish rice, pinto beans, fresh fruit cup, milk
  - Wednesday, Nov. 28**  
Grilled cheese sandwich, beef & vegetable soup, carrot sticks with ranch, corn bread, strawberries and bananas, milk
  - Thursday, Nov. 28**  
Spaghetti, tossed salad, corn, sliced peaches, garlic bread, milk
  - Friday, Nov. 30**  
Cheese burgers, lettuce, tomato, French fries, assorted fruit, pink panther cake, milk

Division I and 10 Teams in Division II, traveled to the Wells Fargo Pavilion in San Angelo, Monday, November 12. The Education Service Center Region 15 hosted the Fourth Annual Robotics Competition for over 80 Teams from 15 different schools. Sponsors for the teams are Ron Cooper and Jerita Taylor.

The Bronte Division I Team, "The Bakalakadaka's", consisting of 9th graders Chase Harris, Kerwin Rawls, and Heath Richey, won 2nd place and a \$150 gift certificate from Lego. This team has an opportunity to compete at The State Robotics Contest in Austin on February 2, 2008. In Division II, "The Bow Chicka Wow Wow" 7th grade team with Jael Williams, Kaitlyn Braswell, Brooke Bedford, and Thoren Charles, placed 3rd, winning a

\$100.00 gift certificate from Lego. This team was undefeated until the very last few rounds. The 7th grade team made up of Caleb Rosson, Mario Delarosa, Ethan Sedden, and Kyle Kelton, "The Domo Origato's", placed 5th overall.

Seven of the 10 teams from Bronte were among the top ten teams in the final rounds. All of the teams performed well. The three high school robots were the new NXT gray "bots" with five of the 7th and 8th grade teams using the new NXT's. The Region Center decided to let the schools use the old RCX "yellow brick" robots, also. Five of the 7th and 8th grade teams used the old robots. One 8th grade team using an old robot, made it to the final rounds of competition.

The students in grades 4 through 8 (Division II) and 9

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through 12. (Division I) were presented with a problem. This year they had to move UXO (UnExploded Ordinances) into the OCU (Onsite Containment Unit) or the CRU (Central Recycling Unit). This is all performed on a 4'x8' white Melamine board with three inch Plexiglass sides. A black vinyl circle with a containment barrier (plastic tubing) was placed in the opposite corner of the board for the UXO (golf size whiffle balls) to be placed. The CRU was made of 3" PVC pipe placed in the middle of the board as a receptacle for the balls also. (No team was able to place any balls in this container.) The students had to build their robots to perform their objective and then program them on the computer to move. The students work on TAKS Objectives that relate to Math, Science and Technology within this curriculum. It is a Stellar Program for real life problem solving.

(Continued on page 7)

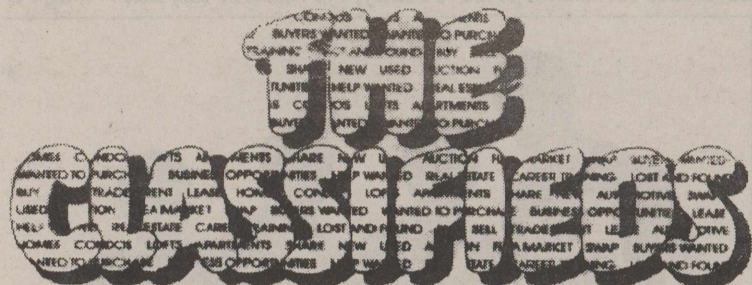
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**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:**  
 All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status 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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 22-tnc  
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 19-4tc  
**HOME FOR SALE**  
 4 BR/ 2 BA. 2 story on 2 acres. Edith near Lake Spence. Storm cellar. RV cover. \$49,000. (325) 651-1131.  
 18-4tc

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 18-2tp  
**FOR SALE BEEFMASTER BULL**  
 5 years old - Purchased in 2002 from Lasater Ranch in Colorado. Priced to sell. Call Don Fields at 453-2638.  
 19-1tp

**FOR RENT**  
**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.  
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 33-tnc  
**PARKER PLUMBING**  
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 34-tnc  
**IN HOME CARE PROVIDER**  
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 19-4tp  
**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).  
 20-tnc  
**LET US HANG YOUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**  
 Call 473-2108 or 277-9843.  
 19-2tc

**FOR RENT**  
 is now accepting applications for a part time office position. Applications will be accepted until November 30. For further information call 325-453-2614. Coke County is an equal opportunity employer.  
 19-1tc

**To advertise, call 453-2433!**

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**HELP WANTED**  
 Cedar Manor Nursing and Rehab Center has LVN & CNA positions open. Apply in person @ 1915 Greenwood St., San Angelo. 942-0677.  
 38-tnc

**TRES AMIGOS CONVENIENCE STORES**  
 Has openings for Cashiers/Food Service Workers in Water Valley. Apply in person.  
 19-2tc

**COKE COUNTY TAX OFFICE**  
 is now accepting applications for a part time office position. Applications will be accepted until November 30. For further information call 325-453-2614. Coke County is an equal opportunity employer.  
 19-1tc

**NOTICES**

**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.  
 BE IT ALSO ORDERED

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**Coke County ~ Ranch & Hunting Properties**  
 New Listing! 91+/- ac., Highway frontage, 2 water wells, a 36'x45' all metal barn with plumbing, nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home. 650+/- **SOLD** land, 3 surface tanks, near Colorado River.  
**We have Buyers, We need Land Listings.**  
**Price Reduced!** On 3.7 acres, brick home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, fireplace, attached two car garage, 25'x40' metal shop with a 25'x40' attached shed, perfect for livestock.  
**Lake Spence**, mobile home on large lot with huge storage/shop.  
**Lake Front Property**, 3 BR, 2 Bath home, 1550 sq. ft., vaulted ceiling in living area, 2 car carport, on apprx. 4.5 ac. with magnificent views, additional guest house.

THAT the purpose of this order is the mitigation of the hazard posed by wildfires by curtailing the practice of outdoor burning, with the exception of barbecuing in an enclosed fire box with water hose or fire retardant accessible at all times and someone attending the fire at all times, and materials used outdoors in activities such as welding and any other activity that could result in a fire. The purpose is to be taken into account in any enforcement action based upon this order.  
 1. Outdoor welding shall be allowed under the following circumstances:

- a. Welding and cutting and grinding associated with welding activities shall not take place when the wind is over 15 mph;
- b. The welder must notify the Coke County Sheriff's Department before any welding, cutting or grinding begins;
- c. All grass, leaves, brush and other easily combustible materials must be cleared within a fifty (50) feet radius surrounding the area where the activity is to take place before any **Let us help with your holiday shopping!**

Go to work for Demand Staff between now and December 15 for a chance to win a \$50 gift card to help with your holiday shopping.  
**Positions available include production work days & nights and general laborers.**  
 Come by our office at 118 N. 8th in Ballinger or call Melva at 325.365.9133  
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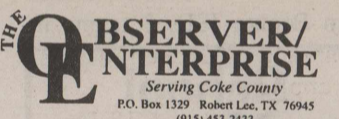


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...More Classifieds

**NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Coke County Commissioners Court will conduct a Public Hearing at its next regularly scheduled meeting to consider and act on an application by Florida Power and Light to designate certain property located in Coke County as a Reinvestment Zone eligible for property tax abatement under Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code. The property is located on certain land in Precinct one (1) and Precinct three (3) of Coke County and is intended for use as a wind power facility by Florida Power and Light. A legal description of these lands is available at the Coke County Courthouse. In determining whether to designate the Reinvestment Zone, the Court will consider whether such a designation would contribute to retention or expansion of employment in the Zone or would attract major investment in the Zone that would benefit the land to be included therein and contribute to the economic development of the County. The public hearing will take place at 8:30 am on November 26, 2007 in the Commissioners Courtroom of the Coke County Courthouse in Robert Lee, Texas. All interested persons may appear and present testimony and evidence regarding the application.

18-2tc

**...BISD Robotics**

(Continued from Page 5)

The following is a list of the students from Bronte who competed at the robotics contest.

**Division 1**

"Project X" - Paul McConnell, Ty Mackey, Taylor McMullan and Shannon Deller; "Mr. Bill" - Bill Miller, Jacob Scott, Rob Rosson and Kasey Glover; "The Bakalakaadaka's" - Chase Harris, Kerwin Rawls and Heath Richey.

**Division 2**

"Bow Chicka Wow Wow" - Jael Williams, Kaitlyn Braswell, Brooke Bedford and Thoren Charles; "The Chain Breakers" - Mason Hoyt, Randon Eubanks, Zachary Taylor and Carson James; "The Boyzzzz" - Katie Austin, Kimber Lee, Mackenzie Gibbs, Harley Wallace and Jill Scott; "The Gangstas" - Austin Mertz, Jaylon Seales, John Deller and Beau Grigg; "Domo Origato" - Caleb Rosson, Mario Delarosa, Ethan Sedden and Kyle Kelton; "Hot Chicks" - Michelle Rhodes, Paige Royall, Erika Puentez, Brayde Knight, Mikayla Fraune and Cindy Davila; "The Bombinators" - Leticia Pena, Stephanie Barba, Brenda Perez and Kaitlin Moore; "The

Bulldogs" - Grady Barnett, Nathan Fillman and Randy Barnett; "The Geek Squad" - Kassie Fillman, Leah Jones, Lauren Burns, Brianna Harper; "The Girlzzzz" - Aaron Sharp, Kaleb Parks, Jordan Baumann, Creed Coalson and Mitchell Butler.

**Bronte Longhorn Basketball results**

The Bronte Longhorns went up against Hawley last week and won 48 to 46. Scoring for the Longhorns were Brett Wills, 9 pts; Paul McConnell, 6 pts and 5 rebounds; Gus Saunders, 3 pts; CJ McClure, 6 pts; Cody Wallace, 1 pt, Sam Rawlings, 4 pts and 4 assists; Lahne Burns, 2 pts and 3 steals; Rob Rosson, 2 pts; Dakota Rawls, 7 pts and 3 assists; Heath Richey, 5 pts; and Kerwin Rawls, 3 pts.

**Bronte ISD Board of Trustees Meeting**

The Bronte ISD Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on November 14, 2007, at 7 pm in the Board Room. Those in attendance were Wayne Coalson - President, Jeff Schoenfield, Terry

Charles, Bob Frazee, Kendall Gibbs, Quinda Feil-Duncan, Scott Frasier, and Alan Richey - Superintendent. Also present were David Bedford, Burl Lowery, Gina McCutchen, and Nancy Cooper.

David Bedford opened the meeting with prayer and then gave the Principal's reports.

The Board discussed and approved the 2006-2007 clean audit by CPA Burl Lowery. The Board approved, by resolution, to cast 55 votes each for Alvin Dunn and Lowell Freeman for the Runnels County Appraisal District Board of Directors. The Board also approved, by resolution, to cast 412 votes to Jessie Sims and 413 votes to Charles Sonnenberg for Coke County Appraisal District Board of Directors. The Board approved the textbook adoptions list, Update 81, and by adoption of a resolution to remove the exemption for goods in transit under HB 621. Bronte ISD will go out for bids for replacement of an activity bus.

Alan Richey,

Superintendent, gave an update on completion of the Ag building and an update on funding adjustments.

The President adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm.

**Robert Lee**

**ISD Awards**

**2nd Six Weeks**

**Pre-K**

**Perfect Attendance**

Zane Brown, Kolton Hooten

**Kindergarten**

**Perfect Attendance**

Andrew Martin, Jonathan Skipworth, Steve Oleksiuk, Tara McCormick, Jay Service

**First Grade**

**Perfect Attendance**

Corbin Drennan, Zachary Brown, Jose Reyes, Desirree Roe, Autumn Ramon, Garrett Knight, Kelby Clawson, Bubba Bohannon, Madison Hall

**Second Grade**

**Perfect Attendance**

Nathan Scates, Kelsey Benson, Kourtney Roach, Margo

Mendoza, Mariah Munoz, Kiara Padgett, Rachel Russell, Jayce Bower, Ryann Harless, Jorge Mendoza, Daniel Mendoza, Jessica Wheat, Tristan Ellsworth, Joshua Gregston, William Coppedge, Christian Hodges, Hailey Padgett, Julian Torres, Adam Minjarez

**Third Grade**

**Perfect Attendance**

Nicole Jones, Mason Sabrula, Trace Oleksiuk, Kaden Hayes, Marcy Leatherwood, Gabriel Abalos, Ryan Martin, Mallorie Garner Chancellor, K and a c e Skipworth.

**A Honor Roll**

Matthew Curry, Kaden Hayes, Ryan Martin

**Fourth Grade**

**Perfect Attendance**

Jesus Landeros, Kodi Drennan, Justice Saucedo, Jacob Jackson, Sandra Hubbard, Karlee Roach, Mathew Paterson, Bailey Hooten, Rani Coppedge, Ricky Williams, Jaicee Torres, Julia Madrid, Bruce Buddin

(Continued on next page)

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White • Tan Cloth • Powerstroke • Automatic
- 2005 Ford Sport Trac XLT #7074 \$17,995  
Dark Blue Pearl • Bed Extender
- 2005 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4 #4986A \$14,495  
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- 2004 Ford F-150 SuperCab STX #4978A \$12,995  
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- 2003 Mercury Mountaineer \$11,595  
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**Billy Wayne Roe**

**...RLISD Awards**

(Continued from page 7)

**A Honor Roll**

Bruce Buddin, Brady Clawson, Rani Coppedge, Kodi Drennan, Hunter Hamrick, Bailey Hooten, Jacob Jackson, Julia Madrid, Myrka Rangel, Karlee Roach, Justice Saucedo, Madison Wright

**Fifth Grade**

**Perfect Attendance**

Chelsey Pate, James Roberts, Tristen Hildebrand, Katelynn Chancellor

**A Honor Roll**

James Roberts, Chelsey Pate

**Sixth Grade**

**Perfect Attendance**

Taylor Sheldon, Alexis Mendoza, Fatima Fabian, Jacob Torres, Ashlie Tennison, Efrain Olguin, Sydney Sheldon, Jesse Sheets, Kevin Saucedo, Everett Wilson

**A Honor Roll**

Bridget Byers, Will Howard, Hanna Hamrick, Michael Curry

**Seventh Grade**

**Perfect Attendance**

Vincent Batten, Beanca Bower, Dawson Brisbin, Justin Gartman, Jordan Gartman, Kelsey Hewitt, Sean Hildebrand, Cooper Hinderliter, Hazel Howard, Lubbock Roe, Zachary Sanchez, Zach Skinner

**A Honor Roll**

Jordan Gartman, Justin Gartman, Zachary Sanchez, Ashlie Wheat

**AB Honor Roll**

Drew Davis, Dusty Howard

**Eighth Grade**

**Perfect Attendance**

Linsey Arellano, Luisa Carrera, Elizabeth Chancellor, José Fabian, Samantha Fernandez, Tyler Henderson, Lisa Myrice, Kimberly Roach, Victoria Roe, Meagan Ross, Destiny Thomas, Diana Vera

**A Honor Roll**

Tyler Henderson, Lisa Myrice

**AB Honor Roll**

Linsey Arellano, Luisa Carrera, Elizabeth Chancellor, Jose Fabian, Kimberly Roach, Raquel Rojas, Meagan Ross, Diana Vera

**Ninth Grade**

**Perfect Attendance**

Foster Allen, Haden Dillard, Blake Hewitt, Logan Philley, Daniel Nowlin, James Rhodes, Kacee Roberts, Jorge Rostro, Luke Sheldon, Joshua Tennison, Sarah Walker

**A Honor Roll**

Kelsey Reed

**AB Honor Roll**

Foster Allen, Heidi Austin, Lacy Brown, Haden Dillard, Logan Philley, Skyler Rainwater, Kacee Roberts, Jorge Rostro, Luke Sheldon, Sarah Walker

**Tenth Grade**

**Perfect Attendance**

Briana Brisbin, Cayetano Carrera, Josef Hanigan, Piedad Juarez, Nancy Landeros, Blake Millican, Stetson Nesbit, Erika

Sheldon, Colton Reed, Emily Yanez

**A Honor Roll**

Emily Arellano, Cayetano Carrera, Sarah Jones, Piedad Juarez

**AB Honor Roll**

Devin Batten, Stetson Nesbit, Colton Reed, Emilee Yanez

**Eleventh Grade**

**Perfect Attendance**

Garrett Blair, Alexis Garren, Jeremy Martinez, Mira Myrice, Olga Perez, Jodi Sheldon, Blake Thompson, Cori Torres

**A Honor Roll**

Holly Austin, Jeremy Martinez, Mira Myrice, Cori Torres

**AB Honor Roll**

Alexis Garren, Garrett Blair, Josh Gallegos, Prescilla Lara, Kelsey Martin, Arrin Minjarez, Olga Perez, Michael Rodriguez, Norma Rojas, Mason Ross, Gabriela Saucedo, Jodi Sheldon, Jimmy Womack

**Twelfth Grade**

**Perfect Attendance**

Molly Burns, Cody Denton, Brody Dillard, Ashley Sawyer

**A Honor Roll**

Molly Burns, Brody Dillard, Briana Longoria, Andrea Pineda, Chase Roe, Kasie Skinner

**AB Honor Roll**

Cody Denton, Corbin Martin, Megan Percifull, Taylor Percifull, Anna Rojas, Ashley Sawyer, Luke Thurman

**Robert Lee FCCLA attends Workshop**

By Kacee Roberts

In October the members of the Robert Lee FCCLA took a trip to Coleman. Chase Roe, local FCCLA President and State Vice-President of Recreation, helped conduct the meeting. His super fun attitude and great personality helped make everything run as smooth as it could. He led fun games like Name That Tune and Simon Says which kept everyone entertained. He also conducted one of the

workshops on Leadership. Molly Burns assisted him. The freshman FCS class took LEO (Leadership Enhancement Opportunities) tests while they were there. The following students all won silver awards: Heidi Austin, Lacy Brown, Haden Dillard, Amanda Mendoza, Daniel Nowlin, Logan Philley, Skyler Rainwater, Kelsey Reed, Kacee Roberts, Sarah Walker, and junior Jodi Sheldon. These students also received a certificate of commendation to show their accomplishment. After the meeting all of the students had pizza and drinks before the closing ceremony. Of course the pizza was good; it was pizza after all. At the conclusion of the meal, we all headed back to Robert Lee. Others in attendance were: Brody Dillard, Taylor Percifull, Andrea Pineda, Megan Percifull, Briana Longoria, Kelsey Martin, Anna Rojas, Cody Denton, Cameron Hodge, Kasie Skinner, Heather Williams, Olga Perez, Prescilla Lara, and Jennifer Barrett.

**American Liberties are Cause for Real Thanksgiving**

By U.S. Senator

Kay Bailey Hutchison

Long before serving as one of this nation's greatest Presidents, Ronald Reagan quipped that he has "always thought of America as a place in the divine scheme of things that was set aside as a promised land." Truly, we live in a nation of great prosperity. But perhaps what is more important, we live in a nation where we may exercise free will, speak without censorship, and worship in the way we choose. The Thanksgiving holiday allows us to reflect on these American liberties that have been defended with enormous sacrifice throughout our country's history.

In 1621, the Pilgrims who had settled at Plymouth

Colony in Massachusetts set apart a day to celebrate their first successful harvest. These early settlers had more to be thankful for that day than just a bountiful crop. They rejoiced in the promise of living outside of oppression and under the liberties God intended for all mankind. In 1789, George Washington built on that first Plymouth feast and issued the first national Thanksgiving proclamation, devoting a day for Americans to observe their sincere and humble thanks for our nation's prosperity.

Nearly eight decades later, the United States was deeply embroiled in its greatest internal conflict. The War Between the States had been raging for two years, and Americans would endure another two years of bloody strife. Yet Abraham Lincoln, demonstrating principled leadership, called on the nation to reflect on its blessings. He issued a proclamation designating April 30, 1863 a national day of fasting, prayer, and humility. In his charge to our divided country, the President said, "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no nation has ever grown."

Though our modern-day Thanksgiving holiday, marked by feasting and celebration, seems in sharp contrast to the fasting and humility President Lincoln

urged so many years ago, the importance of recognizing our blessings and prosperity remains. And if America, under Lincoln's leadership, offered gratitude on a solemn day in a dark period, our thankfulness on a day of celebration should be boundless. As we gather around our tables this year and recount our blessings, I hope that each of us will consider how much we have to be thankful for.

On this Thanksgiving Day in particular, as so many of our military servicemen and women are separated from their loved ones, we should recognize how fortunate we are to be served and protected by our nation's armed forces. It is because of those who have defended this nation--from the early Revolutionary War to today's Global War on Terror--that we have the liberties that have allowed us to grow and prosper. I encourage all Texans to reach out to friends whose loved ones are serving overseas, and especially thank them during this holiday.

The 21st century has brought a new and unique set of challenges, in many ways starkly different from the conflict of Lincoln's day, but also bearing high stakes. Today, the United States is fighting a new kind of war against a foreign adversary who fundamentally opposes democracy and is determined to destroy our way of life. In this struggle too, freedom will prevail.

The liberties we so vigilantly protect have created a country where every person can pursue opportunity and exercise personal freedom as no other nation allows. This realization alone gives us much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving Day.

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