



Quite the "Knockouts"! The Knockouts won their season opener in Ballinger recently!
Photo Courtesy of Krisha Beal.

Coke County

participates in program

Cleaning trash from area roadways may not be a glamorous job, but it is one that has attracted 15 Adopt-a-Highway groups in Tom Green County to volunteer their time this Saturday as part of this year's "Don't mess with Texas" Trash-Off. In the 15-county San Angelo District, more than 600 volunteers and 53 groups are expected to participate in events in Ballinger, Big Lake, Eden, Junction, Sonora, Ozona, Robert Lee, Rocksprings and Leakey. Last year these groups collectively picked up 4.4 tons of litter.

The annual event is a partnership between the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Keep Texas Beautiful. It is the single, largest one-day cleanup event in the

state when thousands of volunteers pick up litter on roadways to keep Texas highways clean and beautiful. The cleanup is conducted in conjunction with the Great American Cleanup, which takes place annually across the nation from March 1 through May 31.

Every year more than 1 billion pieces of litter accumulate on Texas highways leaving taxpayers paying to clean it up. This litter is not only ugly but also expensive. Last year, TxDOT paid contractors \$160,000 to pick up 6.8 tons of litter just in Tom Green County- statewide the agency spent more than \$32 million on litter pickup. It is estimated that the Adopt-a-Highway groups, who clean their two-mile section of highway four times each year, save TxDOT \$3 million dollars each year statewide.

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