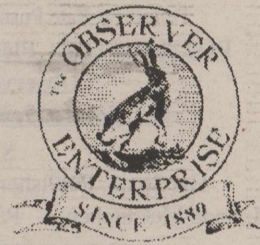


THE OBSERVER/ ENTERPRISE

Single Copy 50¢



Serving Coke & Sterling Counties

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

Vol. 119, No. 28

Friday, February 2, 2007

RLBC to host Super Bowl Service

Robert Lee Baptist Church will host a church wide Super Bowl Service on Sunday, February 4, at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite snack, enjoy the game, and fellowship!

Coke County dance slated

The monthly dance for Coke County will be held from 6:30 pm to 9 pm Tuesday, February 6, at the Robert Lee Rec Hall. Everyone is invited to take this opportunity for some fun.

There is a break from dancing around 8 pm for a little snacking also. After the good finger foods, it will be time to get out once again on the dance floor to burn off some of those calories.

The turnouts have been fairly good, but it would be nice to have a few more pairs and/or spares to make it a really fun evening. It is a good time for a little socializing.

Robert Lee cemetery meeting set

The Hayrick Lodge Cemetery Association (Robert Lee Cemetery) will meet Monday, February 5, at 5:30 pm in the Masonic Lodge Building in Robert Lee.

Everyone interested in the Robert Lee Cemetery is urged to attend. For more information call 453-2957.

Red Hat Mamas meeting slated

The Red Hat Mamas will meet February 6 at 11 am at Red Barn in Bronte. See you all there.

Last Chance CEU Training Course

On Thursday, February 8, there will be 5 hours of Continuing Education Units (CEU's) for maintaining your pesticide license. The program will be held at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center located on North Hwy. 87 in San Angelo. The program will begin at 12:30 pm with registration. You must RSVP by Wednesday, February 7 by calling the Tom Green County Extension office at 659-6522.

CEU's given will include 1

hour Integrated Pest Management, 1 hour for Laws & Regulations, 1 hour for Drift Minimization and 2 hours General.

Agenda will start at 1 pm with Cory Pence, TDA, on Laws & Regulations, followed by Billy Kniffen, CEA-Menard County, discussing Watershed Management. Following the break, Tommy Antilley, CEA-Coke County, will give information on Brush Busters Brush Management and Jim Ainsley will discuss the recent work on harvesting mesquite for biomass. Billy Warrick, Extension Agronomist, will present Drift Minimization, followed by Chris Sansome, Extension Entomologist, discussing insects on rangeland.

Additional information can be obtained from Tommy Antilley, Coke County CEA at 453-2461.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in these meetings, are encouraged to contact the Coke County Extension office at the Coke County Courthouse in Robert Lee.

Coke County Relay for Life

One in three Americans will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. Relay for Life represents the hope that those whose lives have been lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one-day cancer will be eliminated.

For now the fight against cancer goes on. There is no one I know who can say they do not know anyone who has battled cancer. Relay for Life offers a way for everyone to fight the horrible disease called cancer.

On May 11, 2007, Coke County will become part of a very special tradition as we mark the third year of The American Cancer Society's Coke County Relay for Life at the Bronte ISD track.

We will join over 4000 relay communities nationwide and around the world in



Congressional Representative! A congressional representative from Congressman Mike Conaway's office was in Robert Lee recently to visit with Coke County residents. Shown visiting in the Commissioner's Courtroom include (from left) Josie Dean, Joanne Powell - Representative, Nancy Arthur, Gene Montgomery, Stover Taylor, Roy Blair and Gaylon Pitcock.

the fight against cancer as we honor and remember those whose lives have been touched by cancer.

Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's nationwide signature event. This annual overnight event involves teams of 10-15 people who raise money in advance through donations and fundraising to support cancer research, education programs, patient services, and advocacy.

More than 90 cents of every dollar raised goes directly to The American Cancer Society. 60 percent of all funds stay in our community to support local programs for patients such as Road to Recovery, which offers free transportation to and from doctor's appointments.

The day of the Relay, teams campout and take turns walking or running around the track while they enjoy hours of fun, food, entertainment, and camaraderie in a huge celebration of life! Inspirational moments include the Survivor's Reception and Victory Lap and the beautiful Luminaries Ceremony where candles are lit in honor and in memory of those who have fought cancer.

Each year, we rely on the support of local businesses and individual volunteers to achieve our goals. Relay for Life is a special event that

brings communities together. Please consider being an underwriting supporter of the Coke County Relay. I look forward to following up with your business. For more information, you can call me at (325) 473-7771. Together we can make a difference in the fight against cancer.

Sincerely,
Benny and Jackie Corley
Underwriting and
Sponsorship Coke County
Relay for Life

Public Education - contractor awareness program slated

The Pipeline Group's annual "Public Education - Contractor Awareness Program" will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2007, at the San Angelo Convention Center, 500 Rio Concho Drive, in San Angelo, Texas. The program will be sponsored by a group of companies with a common goal of preventing accidents and damages to underground pipelines and utilities. A free dinner will be catered by McGowen's Catering for all persons involved in excavation related activities in Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Menard, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Sutton, and Tom Green counties. Following the dinner, a brief safety program will be presented which stresses the importance of accident pre-

vention by identifying pipeline and utility rights of way, use of one-call systems, and the importance of working with pipeline and utility companies to safely excavate in the vicinity of underground facilities. The Texas law requiring notification to a one-call system before excavating will be discussed. Sponsors will provide promotional materials; including notification information for their companies, safety related brochures and other safety reminders.

For more information call (800) 982-8752 or visit our web site at www.pipelinegroup.com.

RLBC to host 12 & under B'ball tourney

Robert Lee Baptist Church will be hosting a 12 and Under Basketball Tournament called the Jesus Hoopfest. It is a fundraiser to help students attend summer youth church camp. It will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2007, at the Robert Lee ISD gyms.

For more information and to register, please contact Paul Tanner, Youth Minister, Robert Lee Baptist Church, PO Box 493; 22 West 11th Street, Robert Lee, TX 76945, Office: 325-453-2724, Fax: 325-453-4650, www.robertlee.org, paultanner0506@wtxs.net, rlbaptist1904@wtxs.net.

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Published Weekly Except Christmas
707 Austin (325) 453-2433 • (325) 453-4643 FAX
email: CokeCoObserver@aol.com

Periodical Rate Postage paid at Robert Lee, TX.

**POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to
Observer/Enterprise**

PO Box 1329, Robert Lee, TX 76945.

STAFF

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per Year in Coke & Sterling Counties.....\$20.00
Per Year Elsewhere in Texas.....\$22.00
Per Year Outside of Texas.....\$25.00

Death Notices

Allen

Cecil Thomas "Tommy" Allen, former Coke County resident, passed away at his residence in Kermit, Texas.

Graveside services were at 10 am, Wednesday, January 31, 2007, at the Robert Lee Cemetery. Arrangements were by Shaffer Funeral Home.

Survivors include his mother Vera Bethune of Mena, Arkansas; son Lonny Allen and wife Julie of Tiffin, Ohio; daughter Shona Ramos and husband Richard of San Angelo, Texas; sister Judy Williams of Robert Lee, Texas; brother Melvin Allen and wife Dixie of Waxahachie, Texas; granddaughters Macy and Zoey Allen and grandsons Richie and Robbie Ramos; aunts Lillian Stewart of Del Rio, Texas and Billie Dove Ross of Robert Lee, Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

FUMC Study Continues

Robert Lee United Methodist Church is continuing a study of church history. Sunday, February 4, at 6 pm, the study continues with a discussion of the Reformation. All are invited to attend.

Porter to donate kidney to father

Clint and Denise Porter, long time residents of Bronte, will be traveling to San Antonio where Clint will be receiving a kidney transplant on Wednesday, February 7. His daughter, Gale Porter of Casper, Wyoming, will be giving one of her kidneys to her dad. Anyone wishing to help with expenses may donate to Clint and Denise through the First National Bank in Bronte.

CASA seeks volunteers

The Children's Advocacy Center of Tom Green County is seeking quality volunteers. The next training session will be Tuesday, February 6, 2007. The qualifications for volunteers include: must have a heart for children,

want to make an impact in the community, be at least 21 years of age, willing to make a one year commitment, commit to 30 hours of training, and submit to a background check. For more information call 653-HOPE or go to www.cactomgreen.org to print an application.

Small Business Seminar slated

The University of Texas/Permian Basin in Odessa includes a Small Business Development Center which has announced two special business seminars to be held over the next few weeks. On February 7, 2007, starting at 6 pm at the CEED building, the UTPB Small Business Development Center will host a seminar directed at understanding financial statements for your business. The two-hour seminar will present an overview of the financial statements a small business will have to become familiar with, will highlight the importance and priorities of them, and will help in their understanding and preparation. Fear of the accounting processes runs just behind public speaking for many people. This seminar will take some of the mystique away.

On February 19, another SBDC seminar with a guest speaker from the regional office in Lubbock titled "Doing Business with Government." The seminar will cover the following top-

ics: State Purchasing Methods, Vendor Registration, Small Business Programs, Finding Bid Opportunities and Marketing to State Agencies. Again, this two hour seminar will start at 6 pm at the CEED Building.

Registration is important as a minimum number is needed to make the seminars viable. There is no charge for attendance and registration is handled by calling UTPB's Small Business Development Center at 432-552-2455 or online at www.utpbsbdc.org. Follow the workshops link and location and driving directions will also be available.

Midessa Boat, RV, Sport & Gun Show slated

The 25th Anniversary of the Midessa Boat, RV, Sport & Gun Show will be held at the Ector County Coliseum Complex, Odessa, TX, February 8-11, 2007. To celebrate the 25th Anniversary, everyone who buys a ticket will be eligible for cash giveaways. \$200 on Friday, \$300 on Saturday and \$500 on Sunday will be given away. Those attending can also sign up to win a free guided fishing trip and to check the many booth spaces for free prizes.

Also, see the Royal White Tigers at the show. The "Royal White Tiger Discovery" program is a special designed, hands-on, interactive conservation education program whose goal is to promote and excite people to the many conservation issues involving the last five remaining species of tigers in the wild. Currently there are only about 40 Royal White Tigers on exhibit in zoos throughout the United States, and less than 400 in the world, and none left in the wild. We are proud to be able to bring and share these magnificent adult Royal White Tigers to the general public.

Small business loans available

Small businesses create the most jobs, but suffer the

greatest difficulties in accessing affordable or reasonable financing for business start-up of business expansion resulting in job creation. The Regional Economic Development Council recognized that "gap" in financing for small, emerging private business enterprise increases employment when new business or business expansion creates or saves jobs.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture supports the Regional Council's plans to increase employment by awarding \$68,600 in grant funding to capitalize a Rural Business Revolving Loan Fund. An award presentation by the U.S. Economic Development and Business Support meeting is set for the Ed Davenport Civic Center in Brady at 12:30 p.m. on February 15, 2007. The Regional Economic Development Council consists of representatives from local units of government, economic development entities, chambers of commerce, industrial foundations and businesses from the 13-county Concho Valley area.

The initial investment for the Rural Business Revolving Loan Fund is available to

loan to small businesses in Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling and Sutton counties. The revolving characteristic allows for continuous loan repayments by borrowers that serve as a long term loan source for start-up and expanding business in the future. Loan criteria and an application form from the Rural Business Revolving Loan Fund may be obtained from the Concho Valley Workforce Development Board at 36 E. Twohig, Suite 810, San Angelo, Tx 76903; (325) 655-2005 or at www.cvworkforce.org or the Angelo State University Small Business Development Center at 2222 Dena Drive, Room 201, San Angelo, Tx 76909, (325)942-2098. Angelo State University SMDC is available to assist businesses in completing their application packet and applications are reviewed by a Loan Committee on a monthly basis.

For more information, contact Mary Kay Kuss at the Concho Valley Workforce Development Board or Dave Erickson at Angelo State University SMDC or your local economic development entity.

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
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. 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

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 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

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

Tommy E. Neal
Investment Representative

Edward Jones

2412 College Hills Boulevard
Suite 102
San Angelo, Texas 76904-8475
Bus. (325) 223-8244 Toll free (877) 223-8244
www.edwardjones.com

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



George Grim is now representing
Birk Monumental Mfg. Company
Since 1899

Monuments starting at \$195
Delivered & set in 6 weeks

453-9902 4102 Coliseum Dr.
1-888-820-2475 www.birkmonumental.com

Parker named director for Bronte Senior Citizen's Center

Darla Parker is the new Director of Bronte's Senior Citizen's Center. Darla is excited with her new position and is looking forward to meeting all of Bronte's Seniors and getting their input/advice for activities to benefit our Center.

Stop by and meet Darla, visit with her about some of the ideas she has for this year.

A Valentine's Pot-Luck mixer is planned for February 13 at the center from 5 pm to 7 pm. Whip up your favorite covered dish and come join the fun.

Hope to see you soon. If you have any questions/ideas, you can reach Darla at (325) 513-5789.

Senior Day 2007 at the Capitol

Senior Day 2007 at the Capitol is set for Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 10:30 am on the South Lawn of the State Capitol in Austin, Texas.

Senior Day 2007 at the Capitol theme is "Seniors: The Heart of Texas," which will focus on seniors past and present contributions to the state, as well as those yet to come.

There is a \$30.00 (non-refundable) charge for this trip, which includes a round trip ticket on chartered vans, continental breakfast, your lunch, a visit to the Bob Bullock Museum, and snacks.

For more information on Senior Day 2007 please contact Rosie Quintela or Dale Mertz with the Area Agency on Aging of the Concho Valley at 325-223-5704 or 1-877-944-9666 by February 2, 2007.

Check Out Coke County Library

The Coke County Library has added a book titled *Weird Texas: Your Travel Guide to Texas' Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets* by Wesley Treat, Heather Shade, and Rob Riggs.

Chapters include *Ancient Myteries, Unexplained Phenomena, Bizarre Beasts, Cemetery Safari and Abandoned in Texas*. One of the stories is about a ghost cow that appears on Farm Road 511 near Brownsville. The appearance of a ghost cow on dark curves has caused wrecks and has happened enough times that it is no longer a humorous tale to law enforcement. Another ghostly road is called *Demon's Road* near Houston where a faceless creature appears to drivers just before dusk.



First place! Dawson Brisbin is pictured with Pete and Deone Roe, who purchased his first place lamb at the 2007 Coke County Junior Livestock Show Premium Sale. Also pictured is Dawson's grandfather, Bob Ragsdale.

Hoss Cartright (Dan Blocker) is memorialized in O'Donnel in a small museum that is not often open. An abandoned grocery store across the street still bears the name Blocker's Grocery.

The story of Old Rip the horned toad in Eastland gets better through Bette Armstrong's horned toad costume which she wears in all the parades in the area. She also has a store full of horn toad replicas.

Strange lights appear in other parts of Texas besides Marfa. Anson has a light which appears to drivers who blink their lights at night three times on a road outside town. A ghost light will appear to be coming down the road toward the car. The story goes that a mother sent her three boys out to do chores one night. They were to flash their lanterns three times if there was trouble. The boys didn't come home one night and when the mother went out to find them, they had been killed. The mother looks for the killer still. Near Enchanted Rock there is a ghost light called the Six Mile Light, which appears at night. It is on the same latitude as the Marfa Lights and may come from the same energy source as the Marfa lights.

Weird Texas is a part of the many Texas and regional lit-

erature at the Library.

Library hours are Tuesdays, 8-12; Wednesdays, 8-4; Thursdays, 1-5 and Fridays, 8-12.

State-Fish Art Contest calls for entries

Texas students in grades 4 through 12 are invited to enter the ninth annual Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest.

Contestants must create an illustration of an officially recognized state fish and write a one-page composition about its behavior, habitat and conservation. One Texas winner will be selected from each of three grade levels: 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Those winners will then compete at the national level for best of show and art of conservation stamp honors. Deadline for entries is March 31, 2007.

Texas entries are judged at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. For details on the contest and how to enter, go to <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishart>.

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center is a facility of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that incorporates a visitor center, educational programming and a production fish hatchery. It is located 75 miles southeast of Dallas and is open Tuesday through Sunday. For more information call (903) 676-2277 or visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tffc>.

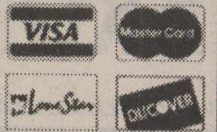
Jeff McGlothlin Realtor

Tejas Ranch Properties
Cell (325) 650-0653 • Home (325) 282-3321

If you've got land to sell or want to buy land, give me a call!

SUPER H

Texas Lotto Tickets Sold Here
WIC Cards Welcome
ATM Available



501 Commerce - Robert Lee, TX
Store Hrs: Mon.-Sat. 8-8 Sun. 8-6
SPECIALS GOOD 1/31 Thru 2/6
LIMIT RIGHTS RESERVED



Meaty Pork Shoulder
Country Style Ribs
\$.99 Lb.



Family Pack
Previously Frozen
Split Fryer Breast
\$.99 Lb.

Great for Guacamole
Salad Size Avocados
4 Ea. / \$1



Russet
Potatoes
2 10 lb. bag / \$4



Assorted • Reg. \$3.49
Lays® or Wavy Lays®
Buy one, get one free! 13-13.5 oz.

Mt. Dew, 7-Up, Big Red, A&W or
Pepsi or Dr. Pepper
3 12 Pk. Cans / \$9



Miller Lite, Reg. or Light
Coors Beer
18 Pack Cans
\$12.39



Reg., Light or Select
Budweiser Beer
18 Pack Cans
\$12.39



Natural Light
24 Pack \$12.99

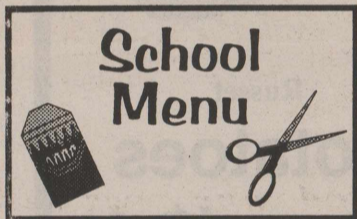
BRONTE SCHOOL NEWS



Third place! Creed Coalson is pictured with Bobby Roberts, representing Coke-Sterling Farm Bureau, who purchased his third place steer at the 2007 Coke County Junior Livestock Show Premium Sale.

Attention Parents of BHS Seniors

On Wednesday February 7, from 6 pm - 8 pm, the Bronte High School computer lab will be opened for parents wanting to submit their students' Federal Aid forms online. Mrs. Hoyt, Bronte School Counselor, will be available to provide assistance if needed. If you have any questions please call Mrs. Hoyt at (325) 473-2521 ext. 119 or by email at micah.hoyt@bronteisd.net.



Breakfast

- Monday, February 5**
Cereal, sliced peaches, toast, jelly, milk
- Tuesday, February 6**
Sausage roll, assorted juice, milk
- Wednesday, February 7**
Scrambled eggs, assorted juice, toast, jelly, milk
- Thursday, February 8**
Pancake and sausage on a stick, milk
- Friday, February 9**
Peanut butter and jelly sandwich, assorted juice, milk

Lunch

- Monday, February 5**
Chicken nuggets, gravy, creamed potatoes, green beans, assorted fruit, roll, brownies, milk
- Tuesday, February 6**
Soft taco with cheese, Spanish rice, refried beans, fruit cup, flour tortilla, milk
- Wednesday, February 7**
Grilled cheese sandwich, beef & vegetable soup, broccoli w/ranch, strawberries and banana, corn bread, milk
- Thursday, February 8**
Spaghetti, tossed salad, corn, sliced peaches, bread sticks, milk
- Friday, February 9**
Chick-fil-lay sandwich, tator tots, tossed salad, baked beans, bun, sugar cookie, milk

Longhorn basketball results

The Bronte Longhorns defeated Garden City by a score of 43-27. Stats: Logan Rawls 12 pts., 8 rebounds, 5 assists; Eric Hendrickson 12 pts.; Albert Force 15 pts., 7 rebounds; Jonathan Marrs 2 pts.; and Brett Wills 2 pts.

The Longhorns defeated Water Valley by a score of 47-24. Stats: Logan Rawls 13 pts., 7 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals; Albert Force 12 pts., 5 assists; Philip Rawlings 4 pts., 4 assists; Jonathan Marrs 2 pts.; Johnathan Ehl 4 pts.; and Brett Wills 6 pts., 5 rebounds.

Longhorns JV basketball results

On January 18, Bronte JV defeated Robert Lee by a score of 43-28. Scoring: Sam Rawlings 14; Reece Springer 8; Audi Miller 2; Ty Mackey 6; Rob Rosson 11; and Jason Horton 2.

On January 23, the Bronte JV defeated Garden City by a score of 55-12. Scoring: Kolton Pena 3; Sam Rawlings 4; Reece Springer 14; Ernesto Casillas 3; Audi Miller 7; Mathew Halfacre 2; Jacob Scott 2; Rob Rosson 16; and Jason Horton 4.

On January 26, the Bronte JV defeated Water Valley by a score of 38-20. Scoring: Sam Rawlings 6; Reece Springer 6; Ernesto Casillas 2; Rob Rosson 20; Jose Perez 1; and Jason Horton 3.

West Coke County Hospital District Meeting

by Pat Stephens
The West Coke County Hospital District Board of Directors met in regular session on Monday, January 29, 2007 at 9:30 at the Robert Lee Care Center. Members present were Mary Bessent, Mike Lomas, Marilyn White, Dessie Kendall and Pat Stephens. Others present were Cy Jenkins, Administrator, who led the invocation, and Jan Magness, Human Resources.
Absent board members

were excused, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved. An informative presentation was given to the Board by Tom Elwood, representative of Care Management Systems, Inc.

An election will be held May 12, 2007, to fill two positions on the Board of Directors. These positions are currently held by Mary Bessent and Dessie Kendall. Forms may be picked up at the Care Center, and must be returned no later than May 11, 2007, at 5 pm.

The Board passed a motion that bank resolution papers must be signed by the President of the Board, or the administrator of the Care Center. The board policy book was discussed, and new policies were voted on to take effect immediately.

The financial report was discussed and accepted. A motion concerning selected signatures on checks was passed. Jan Magness gave an update on Worker's Comp, and Indigent Health Care by means of a well-prepared spreadsheet. The board also voted to immediately implement an update presented by Cy Jenkins on the Facility Vehicle Use Policy.

George Eubanks, Director of Maintenance, presented information and bids concerning water heaters in Dietary which were not reaching an adequate temperature to properly sanitize. The Board voted to replace the water heaters, and move them from the roof to a more accessible location nearer the kitchen.

Copies of the yearly audit report and recommendations were made available to the Board.

Cy Jenkins shared a report concerning the administrator's responsibility and requirements for regulations which must be met in order for the Care Center to be compliant with State laws governing the facility. Cy also informed the Board there will be a clinic Saturday, February 3, to train staff for IV certification. Teresa Lewis, Director of Nurses, gave her report to the board concerning quality care of the patients in the facility.

The Board went into Executive Session at 4:20 to discuss personnel matters, and returned to regular session at 4:55. Future agenda

items were discussed, and the next meeting will be Monday, February 26, at 9:30 am at the Care Center. The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.

Texas "Teacher of the Year" award nominations open

Nominations for the Texas 2006-2007 "Teacher of the Year" award are being accepted through March 1, 2007. The announcement came from the award sponsor, Teachers' Insurance Plan, a car insurance program exclusively for members of the educational community.

The award will include \$1,000 to the winning teacher and a \$500 grant to that teacher's school. The state winner will also be eligible for the National Award that includes a special recognition and a \$2,500 travel certificate.

Last year's state winner was Elizabeth Charbonnet, a 4th grade teacher at Lakeway Elementary School in Lakeway.

Teachers, students and parents can nominate any of the state's more than 315,000 accredited teachers. Nomination forms are available online at www.teachers.com/toty.

To nominate an educator, or yourself, explain in 250 words or less why this teacher should be the Teacher of the Year. Nominees will be judged on their ability to motivate students, their special talents, and their contribution to their school, students or educational community. Winners will be announced at the start of the next school year. Teachers' Insurance Plan is underwritten by licensed members of the Response Insurance Group of Companies, as authorized by law.

Some undergraduates are 24 or older

College students have traditionally been young adults having their first experiences of life away from home. But that traditional view may not reflect the current situation, as many adults choose to go back to school to improve their earning prospects.

In Texas, 43 percent of undergraduates are age 24 or older, slightly more than in the U.S. as a whole. Undergraduates age 24 and older are split fairly evenly between the 24-to-29-year-old age group and the 30-and-older age group. In the U.S., older undergraduates

are somewhat more common.

Many people are unaware that federal student aid programs do not discriminate based on age. Non-traditional students, therefore, are just as eligible for federal student aid as their peers.

For tips on how to establish high expectations for students as early as middle school, and for assistance in planning for higher education academically and financially, visit www.AIE.org. TG provides this web site as a public service to help all families and students achieve their educational and career dreams.

How Can I Tell If My Child Has A Learning Disability?

Experts are usually cautious about labeling a child as "learning disabled." Parents should be, too.

"You have reason to be concerned about a learning disability when a child is at least two years below grade level in a specific academic subject such as reading or math, and performing near, at or above grade level in other subjects," said John Laurence Miller, a learning and education specialist and author of "Mind Magic."

"Keep in mind there are many other causes of problems in school. The solution to what seems like a learning problem can sometimes be as simple as a prescription for reading glasses," he added.

Even among children diagnosed as "learning disabled," a very small minority (probably less than one percent) have a problem with their brains that actually keeps them from learning a particular subject, Miller stresses.

More often, they have trouble with some underlying skill, such as keeping the order of events straight or staying focused on a task for a long time. That difficulty makes school hard for them.

The good news is that it is usually possible to help children build up the necessary skill or find a way of working around it. In the end, this should allow children to be as successful academically as their peers, even though the way they learn may be a little different.

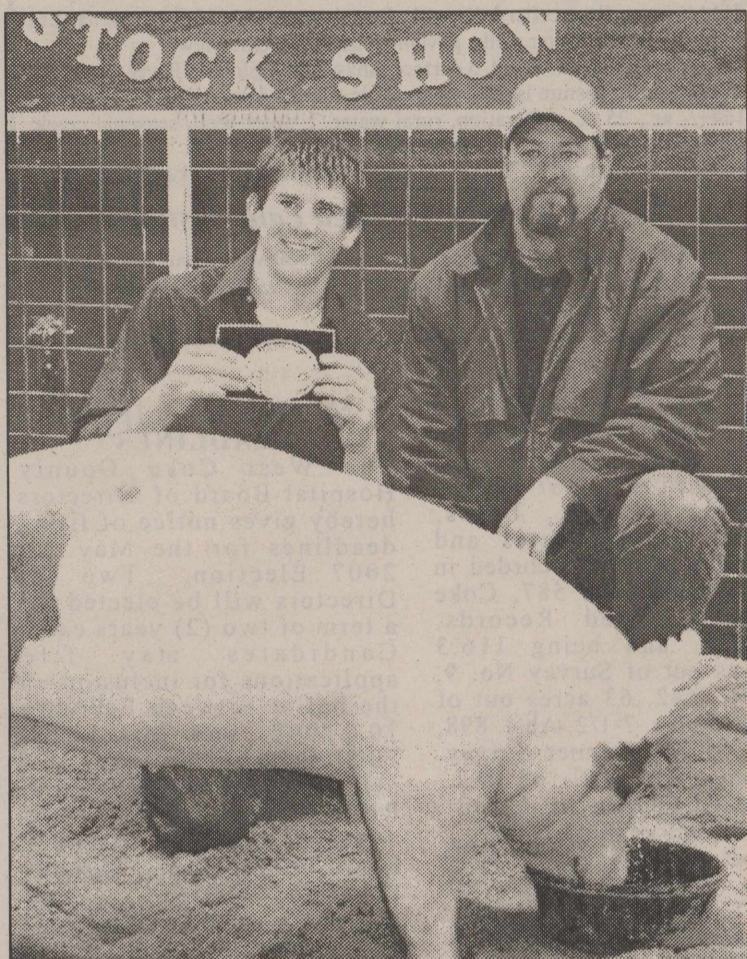
Concerned parents should speak with their child's school psychiatrist or adviser. For more information about intelligence and learning, visit www.power-your-mind.com.

To Advertise, call 453-2433!

GLENN-BIVINS INSURANCE
Please support the Bronte Volunteer Fire Department!
123 W. Main Bronte 473-6791

Longhorn Salon
450-0031
Monday-Tuesday • 1 pm - 6 pm
Wednesday • 9 am - 6 pm

ROBERT LEE SCHOOL NEWS



Second Place! Taylor Percifull (l) is pictured with Mark Wright, representing Wildcat Taxidermy & Outfitting, who purchased his second place Crossbred pig at the 2007 Coke County Junior Livestock Show Premium Sale.

760,000 newborn specimens annually.

Babies continue to receive hearing screenings as well.

Information about the DSHS Newborn Screening Program and the disorders covered are available online at www.dshs.state.tx.us/newborn/default.shtm.

How to eat healthy year-round

With holidays, vacations, and family celebrations seemingly upon us all year long, eating healthfully can sometimes be a challenge.

Eating right, even while on vacation, is a key step to staying healthy, looking great and most importantly, keeping ailments like diabetes in check.

Here are some tips from The National Diabetes Education Program for anyone interested in eating healthful meals while still enjoying the foods that every season has to offer.

At a buffet, start by scanning the table to see what is available. Fill up your plate with mostly vegetables and whole grains. If there are meat dishes, limit your portion to about the size and thickness of a deck of cards.

Choose lean meats, poultry or fish instead of high fat meats such as barbecued ribs. Choose grilled chicken (remove the skin) instead of something fried.

Look for high-fiber foods, such as dried beans and peas, lentils and dark green vegetables such as broccoli, cabbage, spinach and kale.

Dishes with green beans, three-beans, black beans and black-eyed peas are always good choices, as are whole grain foods such as brown rice, couscous, whole wheat bread and pasta.

Watch out for fatty foods. Avoid dishes with a lot of mayonnaise, sour cream and butter. Choose veggies that are light on dressing and cheese. For fun, try making your own dressing with a little olive oil and vinegar.

If you make a sandwich,

stick" blood samples from newborns for 26 disorders, with a 27th to be added early next year. Previously, newborns were screened for seven conditions.

"We are pleased to announce that the Newborn Screening Program expansion has begun and is now giving important clinical information to health care providers and families," said Dr. Charles Bell, DSHS Acting Commissioner. "Early detection of these disorders allows early treatment that can prevent serious complications such as growth problems, developmental delays, deafness or blindness, mental retardation, seizures or early death."

All babies born in Texas are required to have two rounds of screening tests for certain inheritable and other disorders. The Newborn Screening Program identifies those infants who have an abnormal screen at birth or shortly afterward. An abnormal laboratory result triggers follow-up and case management to contact the health care provider to take appropriate action.

House Bill 790, passed by the Texas Legislature in 2005, mandated that DSHS screen for additional disorders recommended by the American College of Medical Genetics as funding allows. DSHS receives about

Junior Class to sell Krispy Kremes

The Robert Lee High School Junior Class will be selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts, Tuesday, February 6, at the Robert Lee vs. Bronte basketball games, which will be held at the Robert Lee ISD gym. For more information, contact any member of the junior class or call Cynthia Dillard at 453-4555.

Expanded newborn screening

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is now testing "heel

School Menu



Breakfast

Monday, February 5

Juice, pigs in blanket, cereal, milk

Tuesday, February 6

Juice, cinnamon roll, cereal, milk

Wednesday, February 7

Juice, pancake & sausage on stick, cereal, milk

Thursday, February 8

Juice, pop tart, cereal, milk

Friday, February 9

Juice, sausage & biscuit, cereal, milk

Lunch

Monday, February 5

Chicken O's, potatoes, black eyed peas, bread, applesauce, graham crackers, milk

Tuesday, February 6

Pizza, salad, corn, breadsticks w/sauce, orange, milk

Wednesday, February 7

Oven fried chicken, mac & cheese, green beans, bread, pears, milk

Thursday, February 8

Frito pie, salad, chili beans, apricots, chocolate pudding, milk

over and phones no longer should be taxed as luxury items for Americans," said Marc Rubin, President of the New York-based accounting firm, Marglo Associates.

Individuals can claim a standard refund of \$30 to \$60, depending on their marital status and household size, or they can apply for an actual refund based on the amount they actually paid on their home phone and cell phone bills over the 41 months covered by the new credit.

"It makes sense to add up the amount you paid over the years and take the actual refund rather than the standard ones offered by the IRS, as this could mean more money coming back to your pocket," said Rubin.

And remember to take into account your home telephone lines, as well as any cell phones your family owns, he stresses. They all probably were subject to the federal excise tax on long distance calls, with taxes originally computed based on the distance and time of each long distance call.

For more information on the refund, visit www.marglo.com or the IRS Web site at www.IRS.gov, where you can also download the appropriate form.

The IRS anticipates having to refund as much as \$10 billion to Americans who file for their refunds.

Of course, we all may be in trouble if the government decides to renew hostilities with Spain.

use whole wheat bread with mustard or salsa instead of mayonnaise.

Try to drink water, unsweetened tea, or diet soda with your meal. If you choose to drink alcoholic beverages, drink only with a meal and do not drink more than one (for women) or two (for men) per day.

Don't forget dessert!

Dessert is a great opportunity to get in some of your daily fruit intake. Everyone - including people with diabetes - needs three to four servings of fruit a day. Fruit is an excellent source of fiber, vitamins and minerals, and has zero fat.

Those pies and cookies taste good, but have a lot of fat and cholesterol and not much nutrition. So, if you can't resist, have a small serving.

Focus on feeling better, eating healthy, and controlling any medical conditions, such as diabetes, for life. For more tips and free materials on diabetes control, visit the National Diabetes Education Program online at www.ndep.nih.gov, or call (800) 438-5383.

Phone tax refund available

If you own a regular telephone or cell phone, you're probably eligible for a tax refund from the federal government, thanks to the elimination of a tax on long distance phone calls and an order to repay much of this money to phone owners.

You don't even have to file a tax return to get your money, as this refund is due to all eligible phone owners, whether they file annual taxes or not - a category that includes many seniors and students.

If you or your business had long distance or bundled service between February 28, 2003 and August 1, 2006, you're owed the refund. Plain and simple.

Known as the Telephone Excise Tax Refund, this one-time payment is being offered to refund a portion of the federal excise tax on long-distance calls, which originally began almost 110 years ago to help pay for the Spanish-American War.

"As far as I know, the Spanish-American War is

Send your news
in through the
internet.

Email:
CokeCoObserver
@aol.com

Please send
articles
in the body of
the email and
photos as a jpeg
attachment.

WINK INSURANCE AGENCY



Home • Auto
Life • Commercial

715 Austin • 453-4551

DARYL'S BODY SHOP

300 STATE HWY 229
ROBERT LEE, TEXAS 76945

DARYL COPELAND, OWNER 453-2980



The Insurance
Texans Trust.

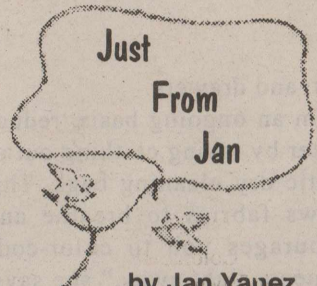
★ Since 1896 ★
Strength

Rated A (Excellent) by A.M. Best Company.
Carwile Insurance
Bill & Randy Carwile
(325) 453-2522



HOME • AUTO • LIFE

www.GermaniaInsurance.com



by Jan Yanez
Cooperative
Extension Agent

Falling: A Key Factor in Lost Independence

The rate of hip fracture increases after age 50, doubling every 5-6 years. Wearing well-fitted shoes, staying active, and keeping bones and joints strong are all key factors in avoiding another threat to independence - falls. Seeking regular treatment for certain medical conditions can significantly reduce one's potential for falls, fractures, and other injuries.

Some of the medical conditions that put you at risk include the following:

- * Irregular heartbeat and blood pressure fluctuations.
- * Cancer that affects bones.
- * Depression, Alzheimer's Disease, and confusion.
- * Neurological conditions, Parkinson's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, and strokes.
- * Urinary and bladder dysfunction.
- * Vision or hearing loss.
- * Side effects from medications.

Reducing the risk for falls and other injuries requires attention to improving environmental safety at home.

Falls are not natural occurrences - they can be prevented! Here are some ways to help avoid falls in and around your home:

Stairs

- *Provide enough light to see stairs clearly.
- *Keep stairs free of clutter.
- *Cover stairs with tightly woven carpet.
- *Install sturdy handrails on both sides of the stairway.

Bathroom

- *Keep a nightlight on in the bathroom.
- *Use rugs with non-skid backing.
- *Install handrails in the bathtub and toilet areas.
- *Place non-skid, rubber mats on the bathtub and shower floors.

*Leave the bathroom door unlocked so it can be opened from both sides.

Kitchen

- *Avoid climbing and reaching to high shelves; use a stable step stool with handrails.
- *Arrange storage at counter level.
- *Clean up spills as soon as they happen.
- *Don't wax floors.

Living area

- * Arrange furniture to provide an open pathway to each room.
- *Remove low tables, footstools, and other items from

the pathway.

- *Keep electrical and telephone cords out of the pathway.

Bedroom

- *Remove throw rugs, extension cords, and any other clutter from the floor.
- *Install a night-light.
- *Do not select a bed that is too high, use a normal size mattress, box spring, and bedframe.

*Before leaving your bed, sit on the edge for a few moments to make sure you are not dizzy.

Footwear

- *Wear low-heeled shoes with non-skid soles.
- *Tied shoes with a fairly snug fit are preferred. Be sure to keep laces firmly tied.
- *Avoid shoes with thick heavy soles.

Pet Talk

If you're feeling bad and think you're sick as a dog, you might have put your finger on the cause.

There are more than 200 diseases that can be transferred from animals to humans, and even man's best friend can be unfriendly when it comes to staying healthy.

From Petey the parakeet to Roger the rabbit, almost every animal is capable of passing some type of disease or sickness to humans. Dr. Leon Russell, a veterinarian in Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences who teaches a course on the subject, says ailments range from near harmless to downright deadly.

The technical term for such a transfer is zoonosis, which means any disease that is communicable from animals to humans.

"Most of those 200 or so diseases that can be passed to humans are fairly rare and don't occur much in the United States," Russell says. "But there are a few dozen that are very common and can be even be killers."

One of the worst: salmonella. It's a bacterial disease found in poultry and eggs and uncooked meat. Worldwide, it kills thousands of people every year but can

be one of the most preventable, Russell says. Its bacterial cousin - campylobacter - can also be acquired from poultry, but young puppies have been known to pass the disease, Russell confirms.

"If you cut up chicken and then use the same knife to cut the bread or salad, you're asking for trouble," Russell believes. "And it's best to clean off a cutting board you're using, too. Just one drop can make a person very sick."

"Also," he adds, "you must wash your hands after handling raw meat or poultry to prevent transfer of these bacteria to other food items."

Snakes and other reptiles are capable of passing salmonella, too, he says. "If a youngster has handled a snake or other reptile and then eats without washing his hands, it gives salmonella an open door to invade the body," he says.

Being pregnant is not the best time to be cleaning out the cat's litter box, either. Russell says toxoplasmosis is sometimes passed from cats to humans and can harm a woman's fetus during pregnancy, possibly leading to birth defects. "It's best to let someone else change the kitty litter if you're pregnant," he advises.

"Eating uncooked meat, such as pork, mutton or beef, is another way of transmitting toxoplasmosis," Russell believes.

Cows - and dogs - can pass along leptospirosis to their owners. It affects the liver and kidneys and can become very serious. It can be similar to infectious viral hepatitis in humans, Russell points out. Animals urinating in surface water such as ponds, tanks or even small puddles is a hazard, he says.

Brucellosis can also be passed from cattle to humans, and although it is not as common in the United States and it used to be, other countries still are dealing with the problem. It often comes from impure raw milk and can cause a

high fever and affect bone development.

Children who ingest dirt that is used by dogs who have roundworms can get roundworms and can get ill, and hookworms from an uncovered cat's sand box cause skin lesions on humans, Russell adds.

Cat Scratch Fever is not a myth - it's real and when kitty's claws come into contact with skin and blood, it can result in flu-like symptoms and swollen lymph glands, Russell says.

"Nationally, about 1 percent of all emergency room hospital admissions are due to animal bites or scratches," Russell explains. "That figure may sound low, but it adds up to between 1 and 2 million people a year."

The dreaded disease of rabies has been around for hundreds of years, and skunks and solitary bats are the most frequent carriers, Russell says. The best advice: "Use common sense and stay away from wild animals, and if you see a bat on the ground or a wall, leave it alone. And remember that rabies is transmitted by animal bites, not by skunk scent or flying bats."

If you're a bird lover, watch out for histoplasmosis. It comes from bird droppings that are often seen on the sidewalk or on cars, and if you inhale it long enough, it causes conditions that resemble tuberculosis, Russell says, and can become very serious.

And parakeets can give humans Psittacosis, commonly called Parrot Fever, which can cause flu-like illness and eventually may affect the heart and lungs.

The Easter bunny can be soft and cuddly, but if it is a wild rabbit it is capable of passing along Tularemia, which causes skin lesions, high fever and swollen lymph nodes, Russell says.

Ticks on animals can make them sick and the results can be transferred to humans in the form of Lyme disease or Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, both of which can be

deadly. Russell says Lyme disease starts out as a skin rash, evolves into conditions resembling arthritis and in its final form, can cause serious neurological problems.

Deer ticks have been known to pass along Lyme disease and dog ticks spread Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever to humans, Russell notes.

Horses can develop Equine Encephalitis and the same mosquitoes can pass it to their owners. Although horses and humans can be victims of mosquito transmitted Encephalitis, horses do not directly transmit the disease to humans, Russell points out.

Most moms know a young kitten or dog can have ringworms, a skin ailment that while not usually serious, can be extremely unpleasant.

Ferrets can be cute and playful, but some have a nasty habit of biting small children which can cause various types of infection, Russell says.

And what about the reverse? Can animals get diseases from humans?

"Tuberculosis can be passed both ways - from animals to humans and vice versa," Russell explains.

"If people use common sense, they should not have much to worry about when it comes to animal diseases. Washing your hands after handling animals and pets, not kissing dogs or cats near their mouths, treating bites effectively, keeping clean litter boxes and bird cages - all of these things can go a very long way in easing any worries an animal or pet owner might have," he adds.

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

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

IVEY MOTOR COMPANY, INC.

- 2006 Ford Mustang Convertible** #7065 \$19,995
Silver • Charcoal Leather Interior • 16K Miles!
- 2006 Ford Explorer XLT** #7058 \$19,995
Dark Pearl Blue • Only 15K Miles!
- 2006 Mercury Grand Marquis** #7060 \$16,995
Light Blue Metallic • Gray Leather • 16K Miles!
- 2006 Ford Escape XLT** #7049 \$17,595
Oxford White • 6 Disc CD • 18 K Miles! • Super mileage!
- 2006 Ford Taurus SEL** #7061 \$14,595
Arizona Beige • Leather • Moon roof • Loaded!
- 2006 Ford Focus SES ZX5** #7064 \$13,995
White • Gray Leather • 13K Miles!
- 2006 Ford Taurus SEL** #7063 \$12,595
Arizona Beige • Tan Cloth • Floor Shift
- 2004 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4** #4891A \$16,595
Oxford White • 3rd Row Seat • Rear Air • 30K Miles!
- 2004 Ford Mustang Coupe** #4903A \$12,295
Bright Red • V-6 • Auto • Super Sporty!
- 2004 Ford F-150 Reg. Cab XL** #4905A \$11,595
Oxford White • Longbed • V-6 • Only 20K Miles!
- 2003 Mazda B2300 Cab Plus** #4910A \$ 9,995
White • 4 Cyl 5 Speed • 18K Miles • Fantastic Mileage

- 2003 Lincoln Town Car Signature** #7031A \$15,995
White • Tan Heated Leather Seats • Only 50K Miles!
- 2003 Chevy 1500 Reg. Cab** #4888B \$ 8,995
Pewter • 6-Cyl. • 5 Speed • 68K Miles! • Gas Saver!
- 2002 Toyota Celica GT** #7013A \$12,495
Satin Silver • Gray Cloth • 4 Cyl. • Auto
- 2001 Ford F-150 Supercrew** #4908A \$12,595
Oxford White • Lariat • Super deal!
- 2001 Chevy Tahoe LS** #4911B \$10,995
Pewter w/Tan Cloth Interior • Great Family Ride!
- 2000 Ford F-150 S/C XLT** #G122A \$11,295
Bright Red • 5.4 V-8 • Grill Guard • 50K Miles!
- 1998 Ford Expedition XLT** #4383A \$ 9,995
Toreador Red • Tan Cloth • Great Buy!
- 1994 Cadillac Deville Concourse** #4909A \$ 3,995
Sand Metallic • Leather • Classy!

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

Save buying: Medical products and treatments

by: Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott

Recently, my Consumer Protection Division has halted three separate outfits that put consumers at risk for serious eye injury by selling contact lenses without physician approval. Dispensing any contact lenses, even non-corrective lenses or lenses which are intended solely to change the appearance of the eye, still requires a permit and a prescription from a physician or optometrist.

Two of the businesses were operating from local flea markets, where dispensing contact lenses is never permitted. The businesses rarely obtained a prescription from the consumers, but sold them the contact lenses anyway.

Selling and dispensing contact lenses without prescription is a serious violation of the Contact Lens Prescription Act as well as the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

Before you buy contact lenses from someone other than your eye care professional, take simple precautions to ensure your purchase is safe and effective.

Have a current, valid prescription when you order contact lenses. To keep your eyesight healthy, you should not order lenses with a prescription that has expired or stock up on disposable lenses right before they expire. Have your eyes re-checked by a licensed eye care professional.

Order contact lenses from a trusted supplier. Request the manufacturer's written instructions for use of your new lenses as well as other risk and benefit information.

Check back with your eye care professional after receiving the lenses to be sure they are the correct prescription. Do not accept substitutions unless approved by your eye care professional. Slight changes in weight, diameter and other measurements can affect your eyesight.

The health and safety of Texas consumers is a high priority for my administration. In addition to halting unlawful contact lens operations, three years ago, we effectively halted the unlawful selling and clinical use of prescription "colonic hydrotherapy" devices in several Texas cities. The treatments consisted of using prescription nozzles and systems to thoroughly cleanse the colon, which requires physical oversight under federal and state law. In addition, the purchase, possession and use of the devices must be done with the approval of a physician. Colonic irrigation without physician oversight poses potential dangers to patients, including death.

Our office was also successful in shutting down four ultrasound-imaging companies that were operating ultrasound equipment without physician oversight. The companies offered fetal sonograms to pregnant women as "keepsake" photos and videos. The operators did not inform the women that prescriptions are required before such devices may be used. A physician often approves sonograms only for medical and diagnostic purposes, not for memento purposes.

My office takes action against such unlawful practices upon referral of the cases from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Consumers may file complaints about unlawful medical practices by calling the Texas Department of State Health Services at 1-800-942-5540.

Winter car care essentials

Whether or not you do a lot of driving in the cold or on snow or ice, it still is important to be sure your car can handle the season.

Colder weather can affect cars and trucks in all parts of the country, especially as far as batteries, tires and fluid levels are concerned.

Now is a great time of year to check your battery's charge, antifreeze and windshield washer fluid levels, as well as your tires and windshield wiper blades.

You want to be sure your vehicle can handle everything Mother Nature can dish out this time of year and that you don't get left stranded.

"Don't forget to make time for your vehicle this winter," said Mark Salem, ASE Certified Master Technician and host of "Under the Hood," a radio car-care show in Phoenix. "Proper maintenance and preparation will help ensure that you and your passengers don't get caught out in the cold."

Knowing a few tricks of the car trade can help. For instance, many people are unaware that as the mercury drops, your tire pressure can fall along with it, with experts saying they can lose as much as eight pounds in colder weather.

Similarly, you should be sure to check any of your engine's rubber parts, such as hoses and belts that can easily crack or snap in colder weather, especially if they freeze.

This is why the experts at the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) are offering these tips to help you make sure your vehicle is prepared this winter:

* Read your owner's manual and follow the manufacturer's service intervals.

* Replace worn wiper blades and keep plenty of washer fluid on hand to fight

road salt, grit, and other grime.

* Replace worn tires with all-season radials or snow tires, as conditions warrant. Don't forget to check the spare tire and jack.

* If you are not a do-it-yourselfer, find a repair shop with a courteous staff, qualified technicians, and modern equipment. Look for repair facilities that employ ASE-certified automotive technicians to do those jobs you cannot or do not want to perform.

* Engine performance problems (rough idling, poor acceleration, or hard starts) should be corrected. An inconvenience in the summer, stalling can be deadly in winter storms.

* Have a qualified auto technician check the condition of your battery and cables, plus the radiator, and all hoses and belts.

* Make certain the heater and defroster are in good working condition; have the exhaust system examined for leaks, a potentially deadly condition in closed vehicles.

* Carry emergency gear: flares, boots, gloves, ice scraper, high-energy snacks, a blanket, shovel, flashlight, tire chains, a few tools, and a cell phone.

For more information on the care and upkeep of your car or truck, visit the

Institute's Web site at www.ase.com.

How Can I Better Organize My Closet?

A messy closet can make the start of any day unpleasant, but digging out and getting organized can seem daunting.

Here's some advice on taming closet chaos from Robin Wilson, home efficiency expert and CEO of Robin Wilson Home.

To organize a closet on a budget, start with hangers, she advises. Use the same size hangers, so garments hang at the same level. Sort clothes by type and color for easy selection - for example, arrange blouses from light to dark colors.

A double rod creates additional hanging space, stresses Wilson, allowing shirts to be placed at eye level and pants on a lower level. These rods, as well as hanging shelves, shoe holders and baskets are available at organization and hardware stores, requiring little installation. Use these tools to color code t-shirts and other folded items, store handbags and keep shoes together.

With a larger budget, consider a custom solution that uses the full height and space of the closet with multiple levels and types of shelves,

rods, and drawers. "On an ongoing basis, reduce clutter by taking clothing out of plastic dry cleaning bags. This allows fabrics to breathe and encourages you to color-code garments right away," she says, "At the start of each season, go through your clothes and determine which items have not been worn in the past 12 months. Turn their hangers around. When the next season comes, if the hangers have not been turned around, donate these items to charity."

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

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

THIS YARD CONTAINS TWO RAWHIDE BONES, ONE SPRINKLER SYSTEM AND ONE PET TURTLE THAT DIDN'T MAKE IT.

IT ALSO CONTAINS MULTIPLE PIPELINES.



Pipelines safely move energy resources, fuels and refined products throughout the nation. Before you dig or build anywhere, make sure to have these lines marked by calling 1.800.DIG.TESS. If you smell gas, hear a hiss, see dead plants, a vapor cloud or bubbles in the ground, leave the area immediately and call 911. For more information about pipeline safety, visit www.pipeline-safety.org.