

THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE

Published Weekly

707 Austin (325) 453-2433 (325) 453-4643 Fax
o-e@wcc.net www.ObserverEnterprise.com
Periodical Rate Postage paid at Robert Lee, Texas

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to
Observer/Enterprise
PO Box 1329, Robert Lee, Texas 76945

STAFF

Melinda McCutchen, Publisher/Editor
Amber Sawyer

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per Year in Coke County ... \$30.00
Per Year Elsewhere in Texas ... \$35.00
Per Year Outside of Texas ... \$37.00

Obituaries



Bessent

Ben Bessent was born December 22, 1936, in San Angelo, Texas, to parents Charlie W. Bessent and Lou Ella Bilbo Bessent. He died on January 13, 2015.

His family lived in Robert Lee, Texas, and upon graduation from Robert Lee High School in 1955, Ben attended San Angelo College and Odessa College.

He was married to Mary Angeline Vaughan on July 8, 1956.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Bobby Joe and Charles Bessent, his parents-in-law Robert and Pauline Vaughan, and his beloved grandson, Cody Bill Bessent.

Ben was an entrepreneur who began his work career at the age of six, washing dishes at a local café where he had to stand on a box to reach the sink. People in Robert Lee knew him as Benny, the boy who came up with ideas like selling snow cones, shining shoes, or selling the Grit newspaper. As a teenager he worked for Earl Roberts in a local grocery store. Early on Ben showed his great drive when he won an award from The Abilene Reporter for his high percentage of paper sales. Ben was definitely a people person and a salesman. He began working for Vaughan Chevrolet in 1954, and Robert Vaughan became his mentor and later his father-in-law. They developed a close and lasting bond until Robert's death in 1998.

After Ben and Mary married, they moved to Odessa where he worked for Bronco Chevrolet and attended Odessa Jr. College. In 1958, he went to work for Mobil Oil Co. on a seismograph crew and lived in

McAllister, Oklahoma, and Liberal, Kansas, during that time. He returned to the car business in 1959, taking a job with Mustang Chevrolet in San Angelo. In 1968, Ben and Mary returned to Robert Lee, became partners in Vaughan Chevrolet, and when Robert retired, Ben became the sole owner of the dealership.

In 2004, Ben Bessent Chevrolet was sold, and Ben retired. After three weeks of retirement, Ben said, "No, retirement is not for me." So Ben's good friend, Mike Mitchell of Mitchell Buick/GMC gave Ben the opportunity to continue the career he loved where he could sell cars, see old friends, make new friends, and have a great time.

Ben lived his life with intensity, giving 150% of his energy to everything he loved, which included his family, his friends, his work, and barbeques at the pool. In fact, he always said, "I want everybody to know that I had more fun than anyone! And I played Pebble Beach!"

Ben is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary, his children Craig and Lisa Gilstrap Bessent, Randy and Cindy Ash Bessent, and Lisa Myers. Ben also leaves three grandchildren, B.J. Bessent and wife Rachel, Katie Bessent, and Shaye Anne Atwood and husband Ross. Ben also leaves three great-grandchildren, Cody and Cali Bessent and Hudson Atwood, as well as a cousin, Katrina Hallmark, who has been like one of Ben and Mary's daughters.

The family wants to thank Dr. John Harvey, Dr. Walter Rustmann, Dr. Raj Cheruku, and Dr. Gene Sherrod as well as Gentiva Hospice for their compassionate and loving care.

Visitation was held all day Thursday at Shaffer Funeral Home with the family present from 6 pm to 8 pm. Funeral services were held at the First United Methodist Church in Robert Lee, Texas, on Friday, January 16, 2015, at 10:30 am.



Raffle Winner! Grace Todacheeny (left) was the lucky winner of the 55" color television donated by Floyd and Jan Pettit to Robert Lee Vision with a Purpose. She is shown with Debbie Childers, president of Robert Lee Vision with A Purpose.

Services were under the direction of Shaffer Funeral Home. Memorials may be sent to First United Methodist Church of Robert Lee.

On line condolences may be made to www.shafferpioneer.com.

29-1tc

Thomas

William (W.J.) Jefferson Thomas, age 81, of Bronte, Texas, passed away on Saturday, January 17, 2015, at his residence.

Graveside services were held at 2 pm, Tuesday, January 20, 2015, at Garden of Memories with Rev. James Baker officiating. Burial followed.

Arrangements were under the direction of Cate-Spencer & Trent Funeral Home.

He is survived by his wife, Martha Thomas of Bronte, Texas; two daughters, Melinda Brasuell and husband Matt of Richmond, Texas, and Karen Thomas of Bronte, Texas; two sons, Kevin Thomas and wife Melanie and Edwin Thomas, all of San Angelo, Texas; two brothers, Fred Thomas and wife Pat of Tennyson, Texas, and Pete Thomas of Merkel, Texas; five grandchildren, Zachary Brasuell, Madison Brasuell, Kaity Thomas, Will Thomas and Riley Thomas and one great-grandchild, Preslee Warriner.

The family received friends at the funeral home on Monday, January 19, 2015, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm.

Hemphill

Estil Elvin Hemphill, 91, passed away on January 18, 2015.

Funeral services were held at 2 pm Wednesday, January 21, 2015, at the Robert Lee Baptist Church. Burial followed at Paint Creek Cemetery.

Estil is survived by his beloved wife, Olene Hemphill; a daughter, Patty Moseley and husband, Dale of Odessa; two brothers, Murvil Hemphill of Gatesville and Wayne Hemphill of West Virginia; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Area Churches

Invite You to Worship

Bronte

Bronte Church of Christ
PO Box 346 118 S. Jefferson 118 Bronte
(325) 473-3291

Preacher John V. Driggers
Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

Central Baptist Church
324 S. Franklin 118 Bronte
(325) 473-4811

Dale Patterson, Pastor
Sun. 10 am Sunday School
11 am & 6 pm Worship
Wed. 6 pm

First Baptist Church
424 S. Washington 118 Bronte
(325) 473-2331
Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,
10:55 am Worship,
5 pm Worship
6 pm Youth

Wednesday 7 pm Prayer Meeting

First United Methodist Church
Corner of Washington & Holmes
Bronte
(325) 473-3281

Rev. Everette Boyce, Pastor
Sun. 10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship

Forgiven Ministries

117 W. Main, Bronte
Russ Frasier, Pastor
Sun. 10 am

Tuesday 6 pm Table Time
St. James Catholic Church
215 N. Washington, Bronte
(325) 365-2687

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

Coke County

Pecan Baptist
PO Box 542 1/2 miles West of
Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy
(325) 453-2065, Bill Hood, Minister
www.pecanbaptist.org
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
11 am & 7 pm, Worship

Robert Lee

Bible Baptist Church
PO Box 938 9th & Austin
(325) 453-2621 Robert Lee, Dennis Clark, Pastor
Sun. 10 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship,
Wednesday 1 pm Ladies Bible Study

Emmanuel Pentecostal

PO Box 683 1019 Colorado City Hwy
Pastor Tim Wood (325) 453-2360
Sundays 2 pm, Thursdays 7 pm

First United Methodist Church
PO Box 144 9th & Chadbourne
Robert Lee (325) 453-2417

Cyndi Weidner, Pastor
Sun. 10 am Sunday School
11 am Worship, 5 pm Choir Practice

Iglesia Bautista Betel

101 Houston 118 Robert Lee
Sun. 9:45 am 118 Sunday School
11 am Service 118 Bible Study Wed. 6 pm

Southside Church of Christ
PO Box 698 8th & Houston
Robert Lee (325) 453-2176

Jordan Arnold, Preacher
Sun. 10 am, Sunday School
11 am & 6 pm, Worship

Wed. 6 pm, Worship
Northside Church of Christ
PO Box 508

9th & Chadbourne 118 Robert Lee
(325) 453-2685, (806) 543-2118 or
(325) 473-1053

Services: Sun. 10 am
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church

601 W. 10th, Robert Lee
(325) 365-2687

Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor
Sat. 6 pm
Robert Lee Baptist Church
PO Box 493 22 W. 11th
(325) 453-2724

Danny White, Pastor
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
11 am & 7 pm, Worship

Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting
Victory Assembly of God
(325) 453-2208, PO Box 638
6th & Houston, Robert Lee

Rev. Irving Smith, Pastor
Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship

Wed. 6 pm, Bible Study
Tennyson

Tennyson Baptist Church
Hwy 277 118 Tennyson
(325) 473-2040

Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School
11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship

Wed. 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting

Come As You Are

Sunday Mornings • 10 am
Table Time • Tuesday evening
Pot Luck 6 pm • Study 7 pm

FORGIVEN MINISTRIES

Downtown Bronte • Across from Grocery Store
Russ Frasier, Preacher