

UPCOMINGS

RL Community Watch meeting set for November 19

Robert Lee Community Watch will hold a meeting on Tuesday, November 19, at 6 pm in the Robert Lee Methodist Church basement. Coke County Sheriff's Deputy Anthony Lopez will be speaking about mental health.

Sterling County Hunters Dinner set for November 16

The annual Sterling County Hunters' Appreciation Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 16, 2019, beginning at 6:30 pm. The event will be held at the Sterling County Community Center. A beef fajita supper with all the trimmings will be served. The public is encouraged to attend.

Raffle tickets will be sold for the chance to win one of a selection of high quality guns. Guns will be raffled that

New bill would help livestock haulers

Recently introduced legislation would give farmers, ranchers and livestock haulers more flexibility when transporting live animals and perishable goods.

The Responsible and Efficient Agriculture Destination (TREAD) Act, HR 4919, would allow drivers hauling live animals and agricultural commodities to finish their routes if they are within 150 air miles of their destination.

The proposed legislation will provide relief to transporters from the burdensome regulations that jeopardize the quality, health and well-being of livestock.

Building on the current exemption for the beginning of hauls at the "source," the measure provides a 150 air-mile

evening, but you do not have to be present to win.

Local and area businesses will also have booths available. For more information, contact the Sterling County Extension Office at (325) 378-3181.

RLISD to host

Thanksgiving Meal

Robert Lee ISD will host their annual Thanksgiving Meal on Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 11 am. The public is encouraged to attend. There is a small fee that may be paid by cash or check.

Please RSVP to Inga Elliott at (325) 453-4555 by November 14.

Medicare Annual Open Enrollment to run through December 7

The Area Agency on Aging of the Concho Valley (AAACV) is excited to announce the upcoming Annual Medicare Open Enrollment, which will run through December 7. This is an important time of the year

exemption from hours-of-service regulations on the back end of hauls for agricultural commodities. This would help create a safe, legal and logical solution when it makes sense for livestock haulers and farmers.

In addition, the TREAD Act allows this exemption to be used year-round, rather than only during planting and harvesting seasons.

"Farmers and ranchers need safe and humane transportation for the animals and goods they raise," American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said.

The measure was proposed by Reps. Angie Craig (D-Minn.) and Lloyd Smucker (R-Penn.). Co-sponsors of the bill include Reps. Bob Gibbs (R-Ohio), John Garamendi (D-Calif.), Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.) and Cindy Axne (D-Iowa).

to compare prescription drug plans and to ensure that you have the right coverage for you.

Three certified Benefits Counselors are available through the agency to provide you with a comprehensive look at your Medicare prescription drug coverage options for the upcoming year. You can stay with your current plan if you are happy with it, or look for a new one with better coverage, higher quality, and lower cost. Our Benefits Counselors will assist you in making informed decisions when it comes to selecting a plan that suits your needs.

Appointment availability is limited, so schedule your appointment today. To schedule an appointment, please contact the AAACV at (325) 223-5704 or toll free at 877-944-9666.

Longhorn Classic slated for January 4

The Bronte FFA will host the inaugural Longhorn Classic Livestock Show on Saturday, January 4, 2020. The event will begin at 9 am at the Coke County Livestock Barn in Robert Lee. The Longhorn Classic will include a day of competition, workshops, and a free lunch.

The bill "promotes both highway safety and animal welfare by ensuring that hours-of-service regulations do not unfairly burden farmers and ranchers or the truckers who help deliver a healthy, affordable food supply. This legislation strikes the right balance for all involved. We appreciate the leadership of Reps. Craig and Smucker and encourage all members of Congress to support this much-needed regulatory relief," Duvall said.

...Ag scholarships

(Continued from previous page)

"Agricultural science teachers are in demand," John Ross said. "They play an important role in the classroom and community, and this scholarship will help students prepare to fill those extremely important roles."

The scholarship application is available online at

my.texasfarmbureau.org.

Applications must be submitted on or before midnight November 1.

The scholarship application includes a written essay and a recommendation form from a college or university supervisor.

The student must be part of a TFB member-family to qualify and that membership must be maintained for the duration of the scholarship.

More information and eligibility requirements are available online at www.texasfarmbureau.org/youth/youth-opportunities.

Scholarship winners will be announced in January 2020.

Four scholarships will also be awarded in the fall of 2020 to seniors majoring in Agricultural Education and going into their student teaching semester. Details on those scholarships will be released next year.

Regulation changes on freshwater trotlines and other gears

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved changes to the regulations on passive fishing gear (jug lines, minnow traps, perch traps, throwlines, and trotlines) to facilitate the removal of abandoned gear from public waters, make the presence of passive fishing gear identifiable to all users of public waters, and minimize the unintended take of aquatic resources.

Before approving the proposed changes, commissioners, in response to public input, reduced the valid period for gear tags from 10 days to six days (instead of the proposed four) to shorten the time between angler inspections of their gear and reduce the negative impacts of abandoned passive fishing gear in Texas public waters. Scientific investigations conducted by the department show that fish mortalities as a result of "ghost fishing" (the continuing of effect

of unattended passive gears) can increase after four days. Such devices can continue to fish and represent a danger to fish and other aquatic organisms when they are abandoned. Requiring the gear tag and the accompanying gear to be checked more frequently than 10 days should reduce those unintended mortalities.

"Current regulations do not require the removal of the fishing device from the water when the date period on gear tags needs to be updated. Reducing the number of days from 10 to six will not change that, but it does require the angler to check the gear and retain or release any resource that is caught," said Jarret Barker, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Assistant Commander for Fisheries Enforcement. "The device can remain in the water while the gear tag is updated."

In addition to the changes in the length of the valid period for gear tags, changes were made to information required to be displayed on the gear tag. Anglers were given the option of including the 12-digit customer number from their license instead of their address.

"This allows some anonymity so someone can set out their gear without disclosing their personal information to other anglers while still allowing game wardens to identify the gear's owner by using their customer number," Barker said.

Other approved changes add the requirement that minnow traps, throwlines, and trotlines have floats attached to aid in distinguishing active fishing gear from abandoned fishing gear and litter. All floats used on juglines, minnow traps, throwlines, and trotlines must be at least 6 inches in length and not less than 3 inches in width. For these four gears, floats for recreational anglers can be any color other than orange, while commercial fishing license holders will be required to use orange-colored floats.

The Observer/Enterprise is Available at the Following Locations!

Bronte

Shirley's Place

Bronte Supermarket

Robert Lee

Coke County Feed

Super H

Blackwell

Corner Grocery

Drop Boxes for Payments, News Items, etc at:

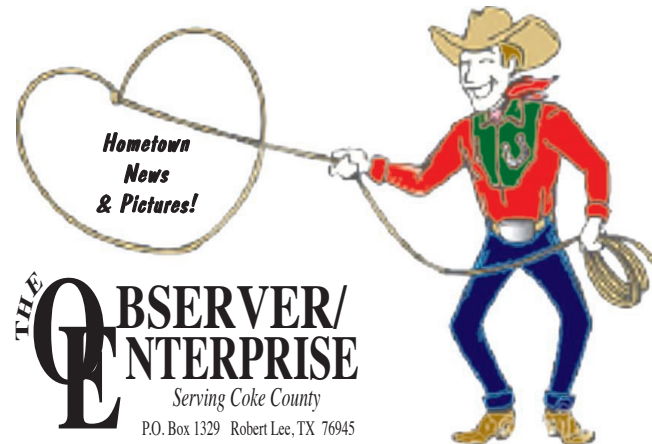
Bronte

Shirley's Place

Robert Lee

Petitt Insurance

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