

Blood Drive set for Monday in Robert Lee

A Blood Drive will be held Monday, August 22, from 3 pm to 6 pm at Robert Lee Baptist Church in the Fellowship Hall.

There is still a critical need for all blood types. This means there is less than a one day supply for all of the local hospitals.

Donors will receive a drawing entry for a pair of tickets to the September 1 Cowboys vs. Texans game, a free cholesterol check and Hero in Me points.

For an appointment, contact Becky Ross at (325) 763-7513.

Fire Department Donations needed

Both the Bronte and Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Departments are in need of bottled water donations. Robert Lee VFD is also accepting donations of Gatorade. With the continued lack of moisture and hot temperatures, the possibility of wildfires is a clear and present danger to our county.

Please leave the donations at Bronte City Hall, 114 S. Washington in Bronte or Robert Lee City Hall, 6 7th Street in Robert Lee.

Goat Roping Fundraiser set for August 27

Robert Lee Street Affair, in conjunction with the 4C Coke County Cowboy Church, is hosting a Horseless Goat Roping Saturday, August 27, 2016, at the Coke County Park in Robert Lee. Books open at 6 pm and the roping will begin at 7 pm.

Barbecue plates will be available for purchase. Come to rope or just to eat and watch the fun and festivities.

For more information, call Jason at (325) 234-9927 or Gina at (325) 234-9926.

AgriLife Extension offers tips for avoiding Zika

By Steve Byrns,

The mosquito-transmitted Zika virus is a potential threat to the health of unborn babies in Texas and other states, and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has stepped up efforts to educate the public on ways to protect themselves from this new menace, said agency entomologists.

“While people enjoy outdoor activities and travel this summer, it’s important to remember that our first line of defense against Zika is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes,” said Dr. Sonja Swiger, AgriLife Extension entomologist at Stephenville. “The Aedes aegypti and A. albopictus mosquitoes that transmit Zika occur commonly in our backyards where their eggs are laid and larvae live in standing water. Like other mosquito species, they are active at sunrise and sunset, but commonly bite throughout the day as well.”

Swiger said it’s important to remember the “Four Ds” as a first line of defense. They are:

-- Drain: Empty standing water, thus eliminating mosquito breeding sites.

-- Dress: Put on long sleeved shirts and pants when going outside.

-- Defend: Apply mosquito repellent when going outside.

-- Dusk and Dawn: Avoid outdoor activity during thesetwo

Swiger said simple steps such as repairing screen doors and window are critically important to keeping mosquitoes out. Managing landscape water features is another key area in the fight against the spread of the Zika virus.

“Mosquito dunks, commonly sold in garden centers for mosquito control in home water features, can be used to treat water that cannot be readily drained,” she said. “The dunks contain insect growth regulators or mosquito-specific bacteria to effectively control mosquito larvae. Neither approach is harmful to fish or other aquatic organisms.”

Dr. Mike Merchant, AgriLife Extension urban entomologist at Dallas, said that fighting Zika will be much different than fighting West Nile virus. Aedes mosquitoes infected with Zika are not easily detected, so health officials have to rely on actual human cases to identify hot spots.

“In addition, city and county truck-mounted sprayers are less effective at killing Aedes mosquitoes, so stopping these mosquitoes in each and every backyard is even more important. Everyone will need to pitch in,” he said.

“Anything that holds water should be dumped or treated. Breeding areas can include sites as benign as containers under potted plants and bird baths. Other trouble areas are old tires, empty cans and bottles, kiddie pools, buckets, boat tarps and even clogged gutters.

“It doesn’t take much water for them to reproduce,” he said. “Small containers can hold enough water to breed mosquitoes. Aedes mosquitoes don’t travel far from their larval habitat, so if you’ve got them, chances are you unknowingly raised them.”

Swiger said there are many mosquito repellents available, but all approved formulations share two commonalities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency registration of these repellent products means first, that the active ingredient has been tested and is safe for people to use, and second, that it’s effective in repelling mosquitoes when used as directed.

“EPA and the Centers for DiseaseControl have evaluated scientific reports and conclude mosquito repellents containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, called IR3535, as active ingredients provide reasonably long-lasting protection from mosquito bites,”Swiger said.

“Users should always read and follow label instructions. Most repellents can be used on children over two months of age, with the exception of those containing oil of lemon eucalyptus, which should not be used on children younger than 3 years old. For babies under two months of age, infant carriers fitted with mosquito netting are recommended. Pregnant and breast-feeding mothers can safely use EPA-approved insect repellents.”

Swiger said constant vigilance is the key to slowing Zika and other

mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile virus.

“It’s the global world we live in today,” she said. “As people travel and return from areas affected by Zika, some will return carrying the virus. When Aedes mosquitoes bite infected people, they acquire the virus. The mosquito then transmits it to an uninfected person, passing the virus to them.”

Swiger said that as of this writing, there are __ (visit website for current case count before publicationhttp://texaszika.org/) recorded cases of Zika in Texas,

all travel associated, except for one contracted sexually from their partner who traveled. No Texas mosquitoes have been found to be infected.

“Epidemics are expected as infected people arrive and locally acquired infections occur,” she said. “As the many media accounts report,women infected by the virus while pregnant are known to have babies with severe neurological defects. Aside from mosquito infections, additional cases may occur from sexual transmission of the disease. So at

this point, controlling mosquitoes and protecting yourself from infection are the two key factors in the rigorous defense against this new mosquito-borne virus threat.”

For more information, contact Swiger at 254-968-4144 or slswiger@ag.tamu.edu or Merchant at 972-952-9204, m-merchant@tamu.edu .More information is also available at the following websites:

- Texasinsects.org
- Livestockvetento.tamu.edu
- Preventingzika.org

2016 Property Tax Rates in EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

This notice concerns the 2016 property tax rates for EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT. It presents information about tree tax rates. Last year’s tax rate is the actual tax rate for the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year’s *effective* tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year’s *rollback* tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers start rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year’s tax rate:

Last year’s operating taxes	\$0
Last year’s debt taxes	\$565,911
Last year’s total taxes	\$565,911
Last year’s tax base	\$119,322,286
Last year’s total tax rate	\$0.474271/\$100

This year’s effective tax rate:

Last year’s adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$565,432
÷ This year’s adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$106,292,559
= This year’s effective tax rate	\$0.531958/\$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings)

This year’s rollback tax rate:

Last year’s adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for an transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent healthcare expenditures)	\$0
÷ This year’s adjusted tax base	\$106,292,559
= This year’s effective operating rate	\$0.000000/\$100
x 1.08 = this year’s maximum operating rate	\$0.0/\$100
+ This year’s debt rate	\$0/\$100
= This year’s total rollback rate	\$0.0/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT adopts a 2016 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.531958 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2015 taxes by \$4,593.

Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balance

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit’s property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
UNENCUMBERED FUNDS	200,000

Schedule B - 2016 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Interest to be Paid			Total Payment
	Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	
	0	0	0	0
Total required for 2016 debt service				\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from Schedule A				\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources				\$0
- Excess collections last year				\$0
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2016				\$0
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 0% of its taxes in 2016				\$0
= Total debt levy				\$0

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates’ calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 13 E. 7TH STREET, ROBERT LEE, TEXAS.

Name of person preparing this notice: JOSIE DEAN, PCC
 Title: TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR
 Date Prepared: 08/15/2016