

**Ladies' Craft Class set for September 24**

There will be a Ladies' Craft Class Saturday, September 24, from 5 pm to 8 pm at Victory Assembly of God in Robert Lee.

Everyone should bring a pot luck dish to share. The class fee will include all materials.

To RSVP and for more information, call (325) 763-7525.

All ladies are welcome to attend. Come enjoy the fun, food and fellowship.

**Texas 4-H members must now pay dues**

Texas 4-H members are now required to have membership dues. Coke County 4-H clubs will receive half of the money generated from the membership dues and the other half received from dues will go towards the Texas AgriLife cost share recovery fund.

Membership dues will be twenty dollars during the month of September and twenty five dollars after that. Members can pay their dues during regular office hours. However, there will be a 4-H membership drive for all members. Robert Lee 4-H members can come to the courthouse Monday, September 12, from 4-6 pm. Bronte 4-H members may come to Bronte City Hall on Tuesday, September 20, from 4-6 pm.

To participate in any 4-H activity you must be a certified member. If you have any question please contact the Texas AgriLife Extension office located in the Coke County courthouse.

**Local leaders attend Statewide conference**

Coke County elected officials joined other leaders of many of Texas' 254 counties in Austin recently to hear legislators and local government experts discuss how the outcome of the 2011 state legislative session will effect

their counties and their local taxpayers...

Coke County Commissioner Bobby Blaylock, County District clerk Mary Grim, County Treasurer Hal Spain, and County Auditor Sheryl Tavarez attended the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) post-legislative conference Aug. 24-26 in Austin, where U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) wrapped up the event with a talk on national issues affecting Texas and local governments.

The conference was an important learning experience, as we in county government deal with the reality of more austere budgets and trying to keep local tax rates as low as possible for our constituents." said the local participants. "Discussing with our peers different ideas for coping with these tough economic times was particularly important."

Almost 800 county officials registered for the conference, at which also included important sessions with Texas Commissioner of Agriculture Todd Staples, state Reps. Tyron Lewis (R-Odessa) and Veronica Gonzales (D-McAllen) and former state Rep. Fred Hill of Richardson. The conference included special recognition of three state legislators for their work with county officials-Sen. Royce West (D-Dallas) and Reps. Garnet Coleman (D-Houston) and Harvey Hilderbran (R-Kerrville).

Due to state budget cuts and a tight economy, county officials were much interested in unfunded mandates and cuts to state programs that could translate into higher costs at the local level. The attendees broke into round-table discussions on topics such as health care, redistricting, indigent defense, juvenile justice and election law changes.

Keynote speaker Evan Smith, CEO and editor-in-chief of the Texas Tribune

gave his take on Texas politics.

Many of the county officials also earned hours of required continuing education at the conference.

**Homestead Exemption applicants must provide additional identification**

The recent session of the Texas Legislature imposed rigorous new standards of mandatory disclosure for those property owners who apply for any one of several kinds of homestead exemptions on or after September 1st, 2011.

The law applies only to those applying for a new homestead exemption or people who have received a notice from the Appraisal District.

In order to receive a homestead exemption for property tax purposes, applicants must now provide a copy of their Texas driver's license or Texas state-issued identification card and a copy of their vehicle registration receipt with their application for a homestead exemption.

Moreover, the addresses shown on each of the documents must be the same as the address for which the homestead exemption is sought.

Those who do not own a vehicle will be required to submit a notarized affidavit certifying that fact and provide a copy of a current bill received from a utility company. The address on the utility bill must be the same as the address on the application for a homestead exemption.

The new requirement that takes effect September 1 is required for any one of the several ways property owners



**Grand Opening Grand Prize Winner!** Dan Cantrell was the Grand Prize winner at B's Blossoms N Bloom's Grand Opening Wednesday, August 31st. Beverly Hawkins, owner of B's Blossoms N Blooms, presents him with his prize. Second place winner was Monica Barrera, with Darlene Kelly winning the third place prize. Winners of the gift certificates were Bobbie Fluhmann, Leta Caston, Mary Grim, Betty Smith, and Debbie Smith.

can qualify for a residential property homestead. These include:

- General Residential Exemption
- Over-65 Exemption
- Disability Exemption
- 100% Disabled Veterans Exemption
- Extension of Exemption for Surviving Spouse
- Exemption for Manufactured (mobile) Home

Each of the programs cited above have additional requirements for qualification. However, the common

standard is that all such applicants must provide the additional documentation as noted before regarding driver's license, Texas issued identification card, motor vehicle registration, and utility receipt.

If you do not have Texas drivers license or state issued identification card you will need to apply for one at the nearest Texas Department of Public Safety Drivers License Division.

Please call the Coke County Appraisal Dist. at 325-453-4528 with any questions or concerns.

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**THANK YOU!!!!**  
 Robert Lee Community for making our  
 Grand Opening a huge success!

**HOME COMING 2011**  
**is September 16th!**

Come by & let us  
 custom design your Mum!  
 Homecoming Mums • Mom's Mums  
 Mum Rings & Mum Garters

**B's Blossoms N Bloom**  
 5 E. 6th Street • Robert Lee • (325) 453-2390