



Pictured from left are Debbie Marburger and Maria Bohac, Medical Transcriptionists for Colorado-Fayette Medical Center.

Medical Transcriptionist Week May 14-20

Medical transcriptionists translate and edit recorded dictation by physicians and other healthcare providers regarding patient assessment and treatment. Using a transcribing machine with headset and foot pedal, medical transcriptionists listen to recordings by physicians and other healthcare professionals dictating a variety of medical reports such as emergency room visits, diagnostic imaging studies, operations, chart reviews, and final summaries.

To understand and accurately transcribe dictated reports into a format that is clear and comprehensible for the reader, the medical transcriptionist must understand the language of medicine, anatomy and physiology,

diagnostic procedures, and treatment, and must be able to translate medical jargon and abbreviations into their expanded forms. Editing as necessary for grammar and clarity, the medical transcriptionist transcribes the dictated reports and returns them in either printed or electronic form to the dictator for review and signature, or correction. These reports eventually become a part of the patient's permanent file.

Medical transcriptionists, at Colorado-Fayette Medical Center and around the country, will celebrate May 14-20, 2006, acknowledging the importance of careful documentation and the skill and knowledge required to meet the demands of this chosen profession.

DPS Warns Click-It Or Ticket

From May 22 through June 4 the Texas Department of Public Safety will be out in force, participating in the "Click It or Ticket" enforcement mobilization, according to Senior Trooper Gary Pflughaupt.

In 2005, Texas had a safety belt use increase of 7 percentage points, moving from 83.2% to 89.9%. For Texas, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that up to 185 fatalities and 3,000 serious injuries are expected to be prevented, and \$600 million in economic costs saved.

"We appreciate the fact that many more people in Texas are using their safety belts, but there are still a lot of people in this jurisdiction who still don't think they need to buckle up. Buckling up is easy and smart. Law enforcement agencies will be writing tickets for the people who just don't get it yet. It's simple. Click It or Ticket," Pflughaupt said.

The DPS is also participating in an educational campaign to convince pickup truck occupants in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and the Indian Nations to wear their safety belts. Well over a million pickup drivers and passengers in the five state region are still not buckling up, resulting in more than 1,000 pickup occupants dying every year in traffic crashes. Pickup trucks in fatal crashes roll over twice as often as passenger cars. Wearing your safety belt reduces the risk of dying in a rollover crash by up to 80%.

"This educational campaign is needed in our state. In Texas, safety belt use in pickup trucks is four percentage points lower than overall use in the state. "Buckle Up in Your Truck" is more than a campaign slogan. It's good advice that people can live with every day," Pflughaupt said.

NEWSBRIEFS

Continued from front page at 9 a.m. at a local church.

Major show turkey orders being taken

Any 4-H member planning to show market turkeys in one of the 2007 major livestock shows needs to contact the Colorado County Extension Office to submit their order. Orders are due in the office on or before July 7, 2006.

Colorado Water Plan

Continued from front page

crabs, birds, and other wildlife.

Conservationists are particularly concerned about how the bay would be impacted during a drought.

Preliminary studies by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) indicate that during a prolonged dry period, freshwater flowing into the bay would drop to only a third of the lowest recorded level.

"During drought years, the mighty Colorado River would be reduced to a small fraction of its historical flow as it enters Matagorda Bay," Hess said.

"We could see dramatic declines in oyster, shrimp, crab and fish populations, which would affect not only the bay itself, but also the economy that has grown up around fishing, shrimping, and bird watching."

In Colorado, Wharton and Matagorda counties, the plan calls for increased groundwater pumping in the Gulf Coast aquifer to help make up for the water sent to San Antonio.

Parts of the aquifer could see long-term declines up to 60 feet in places.

According to Hess, "Given these potentially serious impacts, it was premature of the planning group to recommend the San Antonio pipeline project in the plan."

He noted that the planning group should have qualified its endorsement of the project until it was able to consider the results of environmental studies scheduled to be completed in 2007.

In addition, the plan indicates that during a prolonged drought, the Highland Lakes would fall to lower levels than ever before.

Projections show that the Buchanan-Travis system could go down as low as 212,000 acre-feet during a long dry period just 30 percent of the lowest recorded volume to date.

"With the increase in urban populations, lake levels will be lower in the future. The only thing we can do about that, other than praying for rain, is to use water as efficiently as possible," said Walker.

"The City of Austin the biggest

municipal water user in the region ignored the excellent water conservation recommendations in the plan and set its own, less-ambitious target."

Austin is proposing to reduce its water use to about 155 gallons per person per day in 2060, down from about 175 gallons in 2006, roughly a 0.2 percent annual reduction.

The plan otherwise recommends that municipalities reduce water use one percent per year until they reach 140 gallons per person per day.

"While this plan does get us pointed in the right direction, it is clear that the city could do more, and faster," said Walker.

"The difference between one percent and 0.2 percent may not seem like much, but it would save roughly 25,000 acre-feet of water every year.

"During a dry year like the one we had in 2000, that's enough water to raise levels in Lake Travis 2.5 feet. Over time even a small savings can have a big impact."

The Lower Colorado planning region is a 14-county area along the Colorado River from Mills County to the Gulf of Mexico.

The regional water plan was adopted by the planning group late last year and will be considered for approval by the Texas Water Development Board on May 16.

"The bottom line is that this regional water plan envisions major changes for the Highland Lakes, the Colorado River, groundwater resources, and Matagorda Bay," said Hess.

"And some of those changes could cause serious problems."

Youth Free Fishing

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to fish without a license and will not be required to have special stamps such as the saltwater or freshwater fishing stamps.

Numerous youth fishing activities are scheduled around the state during National Fishing and Boating Week, including special fishing events in state parks and fish stockings in community lakes.

Park entry and facility use fees will still apply for those who wish to fish in state parks. Camping reservations are recommended.

National Fishing and Boating Week is a key component of the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's national awareness campaign, Take Me Fishing. Funded by the federal government's Sport Fish Restoration Program, the non-profit Recreational

Sales Tax

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that were reported to the Comptroller in April by monthly tax filers, and January, February and March sales reported to the Comptroller in April by quarterly tax filers.

The half-cent sales tax rebate for Colorado County was down 12.07 percent for the month, with a payment of \$79,705.

For the year in Colorado County, the payments totaled \$360,897, an increase of 4.30 percent.

In Fayette County, the half-cent sales tax was down 0.61 percent, with a payment of \$98,857.

For the year in Fayette County, the payments totaled \$430,860, an increase of 8.86 percent.

Checks sent to area cities for April with changes to area cities for April with changes from last year were as follows:

Columbus - \$96,355, down 7.44 percent; for the year, \$415,066, up 1.11 percent.

Weimar - \$26,080, down 0.51 percent; for the year, \$111,145, up 5.93 percent.

Schulenburg - \$46,027, up 6.68 percent; for the year, \$211,791, up 14.96 percent.

La Grange - \$125,080, up 11.83 percent; for the year, \$535,185, up 12.92 percent.

Flatonia - \$14,294, down 3.78 percent; for the year, \$76,894, up 23.41 percent.

Hallettsville - \$73,934, up 6.25 percent; for the year, \$339,590, up 9.06 percent.

For details of May sales tax payments to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales and Use Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller's Web site at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/comp-sum.html. The Comptroller's next sales tax allocation will be made on Friday, June 9.

Boating and Fishing Foundation was created to increase participation in fishing and boating and focus attention on the need to protect the nation's aquatic resources.

Texas offers a wide variety of urban fishing opportunities.

Fun fishing can be found on the various lakes and banks around some of Texas' metropolitan areas - Austin, Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio.

Shore and bank fishing sites can be found on many small urban lakes, as well as the bays and the Gulf of Mexico.

Some sites have public piers and handicap access, and are set up to accommodate large groups, such as the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens and Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson.

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