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LBS. FOR



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MINIMAX MEANS MORE...SERVICE!

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LBS. FOR

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FRESH
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PEPSI FREE, DIET
PEPSI FREE ON
MT. DEW
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CANS

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12 OZ.
CANS

WHITE OR WHEAT
Country Hearth Buttermilk Bread
59¢
16 OZ.
LOAF



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Indigent health care applications accepted

Sept. 1 marked the start of a new medical program in Texas for those who can't afford to pay, but in Colorado County the program has yet to be established.

When it is up and running, it could cost Colorado County nearly a quarter of a million dollars and provide some medical services to an estimated 620 very poor county residents, even though the county is just a "payer of last resort."

Culminating a year or two of research, the 1983 Texas legislature created a bill called the "County Indigent Health Program." It is designed to uphold the Texas Constitution, according to Colorado County Judge Lester Cranek, which says that each county must care for its own paupers.

Until now, some residents in counties that had no county-supported hospital would go to a public hospital in another county for treatment, although many others either sought no treatment, or were treated in their local community and could not pay the bill.

But, those public hospitals in the "other" counties began to seek reimbursement for their taxpayer-supported services. In Travis County for instance, Brackenridge Hospital had a \$12 million loss in 1983. Hospital officials attributed \$9 million of that loss to services and

supplies for indigent patients from outside of Travis County.

When the counties without facilities would not pay, the legislature was convinced the indigent health program was necessary. All told, there are 132 counties with public, county taxpayer supported hospitals, and there are 122 counties, like Colorado County, which do not have such hospitals.

The law requires the 122 counties to set aside at least 10 percent of their budget (excluding the special budget for road and bridge funds) for the indigent health care program. Although next year's budget for Colorado County has yet to be established, Cranek estimates \$240,000 will be set aside for indigent health. The county does not have to spend that amount, but if the bills exceed the \$240,000, the state will share the excess cost with the county on an 80/20 ratio; that means the cost to the county could well exceed the 10 percent set aside. The county's liability for any one patient is \$30,000.

In an effort to keep this program from becoming a costly program, Cranek and the county commissioners have agreed to operate the program out of the county judge's office, using his secretary and two other part-time

secretaries in that office that have other duties.

"I chose to operate this out of this office so no person who is ineligible will be receiving benefits; we can keep better control," Cranek said last week.

The alternative was to set up an indigent health program office and hire a staff and administrator, or contract for the services of an outside firm to do the work on a per-case basis.

"Some counties have gone that route," Cranek said, "but I am of the opinion that (people in) a consulting

firm living elsewhere would not have the incentive to determine eligibility that I have. I am more responsive to citizens of this county."

Cranek even went on to say that many of the county judges and commissioners in Texas feel this program could bankrupt counties, but he also said, "We (in Colorado County) have no problem in caring for our indigents; it is our moral and Christian obligation to care for those who have no means, irrespective of how they have gotten in that

Continued on Page 7

Suzanne Corman Miss Congeniality Melissa Engstrom new '86 fair queen

(Pictures on Page 6)

TPictures inside on Page 7 the new queens for the 1986 edition of the Colorado County Fair were crowned Saturday night in Columbus to mark the start of busy fair-week activities. The event is the first of fair week, and marks the beginning of the eighth annual Colorado County Fair. Gates to the fair open this Friday at 5

pm. (See additional story elsewhere in this issue.)

Saturday night, the first fair queen to be crowned was Kelly Stewart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Stewart of Columbus, and sponsored by The Hair Station.

Master of ceremonies was Bill Carpenter. He announced the first runner-up as Trisha Thomas, daughter of John and Maria Thomas of Eagle Lake. She was sponsored by Johnny's Sport Shop. Two young women tied for second runner-up: they were Lannette Powers, daughter of Lanny and Claudette Powers of Eagle Lake, and sponsored by Paulette Klockman's A Touch of Class, and Tara Baneck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Baneck of Weimar, sponsored by Knebel's.

After the five finalists were named in the queen contest, MC Clinton Voelkel called Melissa Engstrom's name as the 1986 Colorado County Fair Queen. Cynthia Engstrom was named first runner-up. They are the daughters of John and Lyndia Engstrom of Garwood and Columbus. Melissa was sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance, and Cynthia was sponsored by Gindler's. Second runner-up was Beckie Thumann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Thumann, and sponsored by First State Bank of Weimar.

Suzanne Corman, daughter of Vic and Cherry Corman, and sponsored by Kell's Korner, was named Miss Congeniality. Phyllis Braden, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Braden and sponsored by Colorado County Federal Savings & Loan Association, was the other finalist.

A complete list of entrants in both contests was included in last week's Headlight.

The other major queen named for the evening was 1986 Membership Queen Pam Renz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Renz of Columbus, and sponsored by Potter's Western Store. She sold 119 fair family admittance memberships for a total of \$1,785. First runner-up was Evelyn Gibson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Gibson of Columbus and sponsored by Columbus State Bank. She sold 86 family admittance memberships for a total of \$1,290. Second runner-up was Deneane Bagwell, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Bagwell of Freisburg, sponsored by Columbus Community Hospital. She sold 40 memberships for \$600.

All together, the 16 contestants sold a record \$6,585 worth of admittance memberships. Last year those 16 contestants sold \$6,015 in memberships. The increase in sales was indicative of the growth of the fair, according to T.J. Smith of Eagle Lake, fair president. He said entries in various fair events have increased, and that the livestock division has 541 animals on exhibit, an increase of about 10 percent.

First-day lunch at Garwood School wasn't on menu

School started in Garwood this year with an abrupt change of menu; someone broke into the building and stole the main course.

According to school officials, when they arrived for the first day of school Tuesday morning, Sept. 2, they found a window broken out, and 45 pounds of frozen fish taken.

As it turned out, James Brooks, deputy for the Colorado County Sheriff's Office, said they think it is "likely" that more than one person was involved. They have dusted for fingerprints and are continuing their investigation.

About 7:45 a.m. Tuesday, principal John Mader contacted the sheriff's office about the break-in. When they got to looking over the scene, they realize it was almost exactly like another break-in at the school last February.

The same classroom window on the south side of the school that was broken out both times, allowing the thief or thieves to crawl in. They broke into the athletic department, got an equipment bag, and took some socks, shorts and a basketball.

They proceeded into the cafeteria area, and took the fish, then also took some potatoes. Because the big freezers at the school were being worked on, the fish was in ice cream freezers. The thieves ignored the frozen hams in the same freezer.

Also, the band room was broken into, and a "pretty expensive stereo" was removed.

The first day of school proceed on, however, with cooks making the meal with some hamburger. Wednesday, principal Mader replaced the broken door locks.

Lucas says: it's not easy to say no

The third in a series of community meetings to help youth understand the evils of alcohol and drugs was held Sunday at the Greater Rising Star Baptist Church in Newtown, featuring former Houston Rocket basketball star John Lucas. Following several other speakers, Lucas spent about 30 minutes reviewing his life and hard times. "It's not easy to stop drugs" once you start, Lucas told the small audience. But, he added, "It's not easy to say no when it's first offered."

At two previous community meetings on the subject, Robert Reid, another Rocket star, warned the community about the pitfalls of drugs. Both meetings were organized by Wilma Tillman and the church to help community youth understand what is going on around them, and to help them make positive decisions about staying in school.

Continued on Page 7

Nada sesquicentennial quilt sold for \$2,025 at St. Mary's Parish Picnic

Friends, relatives and former parishioners of St. Mary's Parish in Nada gathered from far and near to celebrate their annual homecoming festival and picnic in Nada on August 31.

The day opened with a special Mass at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Church with Mr. Victor Schmidtzyk officiating. The traditional barbecue beef and sausage dinner was served to a large crowd at noon in the Nada KJ Hall and Community Center.

Rain at noon put a damper on activities, but not on the spirit of the crowd. After a delay of about an hour, the auction, one of the main fundraising events of the day, attracted many visitors and friends as well as local people.

Bidders were from as far as San Antonio and Beaumont. Some brought treasures and paid well over market price to practice their charity and generosity. One of the main attractions was the local sesquicentennial quilt which was made to celebrate the Texas sesquicentennial and showed the local history. The beautiful quilt was made by the members of the Christian Mothers Society. Art work was done by past and present students of Mrs. Sandra Berge's art classes at Rice High School. The quilting committee and members of the Christian Mothers, under the direction of Mrs. Helen Berger, stitched the quilt and helped with the painting. The quilt sold for \$2,025 and was purchased by Richard "Dick" Korenek. A sesquicentennial pillow designed and stitched by the Catholic Daughters also was sold at the auction.

A description of each square on the quilt is as follows: (beginning at the top) row one - square 1, the Bluebonnet, our state flower; square 2, The Alamo; square 3, the sesquicentennial logo; square 4, our state flag; square 5, the mockingbird bird, our state bird.

Row two - square 1, the wolf, buffalo, prairie dog; square 2, the indian and pony; square 3, the covered wagon; square 4, the mule and plow; square 5, the windmill.

Row three - square 1, the old Joseph Labay home, site of the first Mass in 1882; square 2, the first church built in Nada in 1897; square 3, the present church in Nada built in 1930; square 4, the first parochial school building, moved to site in 1905; square 5, the present St. Mary's School built in 1955,

enlarged in 1966;

Row four - square 1, the roping of cattle by ranchers and rustlers in early days; square 2, corn, an industry; square 3, rice, an industry; square 4, representing the oil industry; square 5, skyline of skyscrapers in our cities.

The pastry booth displayed many homemade baked goods and many beautiful items were available in the county fair store in the hall.

Young and old enjoyed a small carnival of concessions where hundreds of stuffed toys and prizes were taken home. Over eight hundred quarts of soda water were given away to winners tossing rings. Many people enjoyed the bingo games and the kid-

die rides kept the youngsters busy.

Everyone spent the day visiting with friends and relatives they had not seen for a while. The successful day concluded with a dance and with the drawing of prizes. Prize winners were Josephine Wied of Garwood, Debbie Smith of El Campo, Ronnie Gold of Nada, Camille Staff of Nada, Raymond Labay of Nada, Ashley Berger of Houston, JoAnne Truman of Friendswood, Amy Obenhaus of Eagle Lake, Virginia Balusak of Garwood, David Krennek of Bay City, Zachary Zbrank of Nada, Walter Braden of Nada, David Brandt of El Campo, Brent Schneider of Garwood, Genovo Kinejasa of Corpus Christi, Mrs. August J. Popp of El Campo, Cindy Kachunek of Wharton, Jennifer Hermis of El Campo, Vicky Valcher of El Campo, Holly Waligura, Garwood, Lonnie Labay, Garwood and Greg Bubela, El Campo.



Richard "Dick" Korenek purchased the Sesquicentennial Quilt made by the members of the Christian Mothers Society of St. Mary's Parish in Nada. Squares on the quilt are designed to celebrate local history.



After speaking Sunday night at the Greater Rising Star Baptist Church, John Lucas took time to sign autographs. In front of him looking up is his son John.

Correction: CTA story wrong

The story in last week's edition about the Rice school district Classroom Teachers Association was incorrect. The officers listed were those for the current year, and an officer election is not scheduled.

Also, the event scheduled Sept. 17 at Circle K is for CTA members. Last week's story was wrong when it said that meeting would be held for officer election, and would be a joint meeting between CTA and TSTA members. Such a meeting is planned later. Also planned later is a political forum with state Sen. Kent Caperton.