

## Small Texas towns cash in on tourist industry

More and more small towns in Texas are turning to tourism for a new source of revenue according to state Comptroller John Sharp. He notes that as agricultural, oil and gas production income declines, the rural areas are developing activities to bring tourist dollars to their areas.

"They are sprucing up historical homes and museums, promoting a variety of art, music and local festivals and developing outdoor recreation activities to lure sightseers to their small towns," stated Sharp.

Economic diversity is the name of the game and has become a necessity for many rural communities. In addition to loss of agricultural income, many downtown businesses in the smaller communities are closing as large retailers move into the area.

Another recurring pattern in Texas rural communities, is of young people leaving for college and not returning. As a result the small towns are rushing to cash in on the \$2 billion plus rural tourism industry.

The Texas Dept. of Commerce (TDCC) reports that 19% of all travel to Texas in 1992 was to rural destinations. This is an increase of 3% over 1991. Of all out of state travelers, 14% visited rural Texas according to the Feb. issue of *Fiscal Notes*, the monthly publication of the Comptroller's research division.

Industry experts report that tourism is one of the few growth industries that capitalizes on resources already present in Texas such as farms and ranches, lakes and rivers, one-room schools, historic battlegrounds, churches and other buildings.

Recreational water facilities and national forests are top drawing cards for tourists. But many rural counties have formulated clever marketing



### 1992 Travel in Texas-Rural Top 10 Counties

| County      | Tourism spending<br>(in millions) | Employment | Local tax receipts<br>(in millions) |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Kerr        | \$88.50                           | 1,960      | \$ 2.1                              |
| Llano       | 49.4                              | 910        | 1.6                                 |
| Burnet      | 48.9                              | 900        | 1.7                                 |
| Polk        | 46.3                              | 550        | 2.2                                 |
| Angelina    | 41.6                              | 660        | 1.4                                 |
| Marion      | 38.0                              | 490        | .9                                  |
| Walker      | 35.9                              | 560        | 1.1                                 |
| Arañas      | 34.9                              | 560        | 1.3                                 |
| Nacogdoches | 32.8                              | 560        | 0.9                                 |
| Val Verde   | 31.3                              | 520        | 1.1                                 |

All Texas counties \$20.9 billion 392,300 \$592.7  
SOURCES: U.S. Travel Data Center, Texas Department of Commerce and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

programs to promote local attractions as well.

The top ten non-metro counties for tourism in 1992, ranked in order of tourist spending, are:

Kerr County, Kerrville Folk Festival and Guadalupe River, \$88.5 million; Llano County, deer hunting and Highland Lakes, \$49.4 million; Burnet County, bluebonnets and Lake Buchanan, \$48.9 million; Polk County, Indian reservation and Lake Livingston, \$46.3 million; Angelina

County, national forest, two rivers and Sam Rayburn Reservoir, \$41.6 million. Also, Marion County, Jefferson historic homes and Caddo Lake, \$38 million; Walker County, state park, national forest, \$35.9 million; Aransas County, bird watching, beaches and fishing, \$34.9 million; Nacogdoches County, historic settlement, first Texas oil well, \$32.8 million; and Val Verde County, Amistad Reservoir and Mexican border, \$31.3 million.

## PLACES TO GO

### Spring Festival, El Campo

The annual Spring Festival sponsored by the El Campo Knights of Columbus will be held Sunday, March 27. The event is to feature music, games, an auction, food and fun at the KC Hall located on Armory Road south of El Campo.

A noon meal of barbecued chicken and all the trimmings, including dessert and drinks, will be sold for \$5 a plate. Drive through service will also be available for the meal.

There will be bingo, a country store, cake wheel and over \$1,000 in gift certificates to be given away in a drawing.

Proceeds will be used to help St. Philip School; for scholarships to graduating seniors and a seminar; and monthly donations to the KC state charities. Cub Scout Pack #29 and sponsorship of a beef merit heifer at the county fair.

### Spring Festival, Winedale

The Winedale Historical Center will hold its 27th annual Spring Festival and Texas Crafts Exhibition April 9-10, during the peak of the bluebonnet season. Visitors are invited to enjoy a fun filled weekend in the Fayette County countryside.

Traditional German heritage crafts will be displayed beside contemporary crafts being made in Texas today. The festival is on the grounds of the historical center on FM 2714, four miles east of Round Top. The juried craft show will feature 40 Texas artists' crafts in clay, porcelain, raku, leather, jewelry, glass, copper, textiles, metal, wood and baskets.

Continuous entertainment will be presented in the theater barn and on the grounds including German bands, dulcimer music, Hill Country blues, country and swing music. German food will be sold along with a chicken barbecue on Saturday evening at 6 p.m. Call 409-278-3530 for additional information.

### Plantation Days, Varner-Hogg

Plans are underway for the annual Plantation Days Festival at the Varner-Hogg Plantation in West Columbia. The festival will be held Saturday, April 16, from noon to 6 p.m. The plantation staff and volunteers host the event in conjunction with San Jacinto Day activities. Among interpretive and educational

events will be exhibits, demonstrations, tours, encampments, entertainment, food and drinks.

The theme for the festival is the Texas lifestyle from the 1820s to 1900. Live around the Varner-Hogg Plantation will be demonstrated and explained with extra emphasis on the Stephen F. Austin Bicentennial.

### Texas Germans, El Campo

The state meeting of the Texas German Society is set for Saturday, April 16, at the El Campo Civic Center. The day's program will focus on the German element in Wharton County with Chuck Schwartzkopf, former broadcaster and director of development at Wharton County Junior College, as master of ceremonies.

Joe Tom Davis, history instructor at WJC will give a historical overview of the county. He is also author of the four volume series *Legendary Texans* and a new series *Historic Towns of Texas*.

The El Campo museum, housed at the civic center, will be open for touring during breaks in meeting. An exhibit "Lone Star and the Eagle" will also be on display for the month of April from the Institute of Texas Cultures. It documents 150 years of German immigration into Texas. There is no entry fee for the museum but donations are appreciated.

Authentic German clothing will also be on display by the Fritz Kintzel of Fredericksburg.

All those attending are asked to bring breakfast sweets for the morning social time during registration from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Deadline for chapter and individual registrations is April 1. The \$6 registration fee will include the noon meal. Registration fees should be paid through the chapters of which registrants are members or it may be sent to the El Campo Chapter, Box 1236, El Campo TX 77437 with the person's name and address.

Meals cannot be guaranteed for late registrations and the late fee will be \$7 after April 1.

The Texas German Society was founded in 1983 in Harris County to preserve the German heritage, culture and language. There are chapters in the counties of Austin, Burleson, Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend, Harris, Katy-Trinity County, Lavaca, Lee, Washington and Wharton.

Otto Steinhilber of Flonita is state president. The society maintains a museum in the Schoenau community in Austin County. The Witte-Schmid house was given to the organization by descendants of the two families who owned it.

The convention is held annually. This year it is hosted by Wharton County. For additional information contact the gathering, contact Arliss Treibig at 409-543-3730 evenings and weekends.

Beasley Centennial Celebration  
The town of Beasley has issued an invitation to everyone to join them in their 100th anniversary celebration on April 23. Beasley is located on U.S. 39 between Wharton and Rosenberg.

(See Places, Page 10)

Cattle on hand: 1,002; sheep and goats: 3; horses, 4.

8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

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### COLUMBUS LIVESTOCK AUCTION REPORT

Sale Every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. American Owned and Operated. We will be on the air at KULM, Columbus, every Wednesday from 6:30-6:45 a.m. and every Thursday, live at ring side from 2:05-2:20 p.m.

We had a good run of cattle for the time of year. The good quality steers and heifers were very active to strong from \$2 to \$5 hundred higher.

All classes of calves were very active. The packer cows and bulls sold \$1 to \$2 hundred strong on approximately 125 head.

We had a lot of good buyers on hand and few new buyers make a very active sale, says George.

If we can help with marketing your livestock, please give us a call at 1-800-944-2622 or 409-732-2622.

If you need trailers, trucks or workers for your livestock, we are at your service 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Please call George Hagan, res. 409-732-2553; Art Moeller, res. 409-732-2934; Kenneth Brune, res. 409-732-5185; or Roy Burger, res. 409-865-3042.

If you are out of town, please call us collect. Your calls are welcome.

Top Sales; Top Dollars

Packer Cows: higher dressing utility and culling cows, \$2-58.5¢ per lb.; lower dressing utility and culling cows, 42-50¢; light weight canner cows, 38-42¢.

Packer Bulls: heavy weight bulls, 62-67.5¢ per lb.; utility and culling bulls, 57-62¢; light weight canner bulls, 52-57¢.

Butcher Calves and Yearlings: good and choice, 77-78¢ per lb.; standard, 74-75¢.

Stockers and Feeder Calves and Yearlings: steer and bull calves, 150-200 lbs., \$1.40-1.70 per lb.; 200-300 lbs., \$1.42-1.60; 300-400 lbs., \$1.16-1.32; 400-500 lbs., \$1.05-1.18; 500-600 lbs., \$1.00-1.05; heifer calves, 150-200 lbs., \$1.12-1.48; 200-300 lbs., \$1.42-1.62; 300-400 lbs., \$1.05-1.18; 400-500 lbs., \$1.02-1.08; 500-600 lbs., 82-94¢; replacement heifers, \$1.10-1.15.

Stockers Cows: good stocker cows & heifers, \$650-800; medium stocker cows & heifers, \$550-650; good cow & calf pairs, \$800-900 per pair; medium cow & calf pairs, \$675-800 per pair; common cow & calf pairs, \$550-675 pair.

Where your friends sell their cattle. Try us on your next shipment.

Have a nice day, George, Art, Ken, Max and Roy

## CLASSIFIED ADS

Call 234-5521

### Classified Directory

1. Public/Legal Notices
2. Personals
3. Lost and Found
4. Cards of Thanks
5. Miscellaneous
6. Entertainment
7. Child Care
8. Help Wanted
9. Work Wanted
10. Business Opportunity
11. Pets and Livestock
12. Farm Equip. & Supplies
13. Garage Sales
14. Articles for Sale
15. Articles Wanted
16. Office Space

### Classified Advertising Rates

- 1 Week: \$3.00 per ad up to 20 words
- 2 Weeks: \$2.50 per ad per week up to 20 words
- 3 Weeks: \$2.00 per ad per week up to 20 words
- 4 Weeks: \$1.50 per ad per week up to 20 words

BILLING CHARGE: A charge of \$0.25 per ad per month will be added to invoices for classified word ads not paid in advance.

\*Rates are for consecutive insertions. Every other week or any other combination are charged at the 1 week rate.

### Legal/Public Notices

#### NOTICE OF SALE

STATE OF TEXAS • BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE

COLORADO COUNTY • DATED MARCH 11, 1994

and issued pursuant to judgment decree(s) of the District Court of Colorado County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date, in the hereinabove numbered and styled cause, and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said County, I have on March 11, 1994, seized, levied upon, and will, on the first Tuesday in April, 1994, the same being the 5th day of said month, at the inside South entrance door of the Courthouse of said County, in the City of Columbus, Texas, between the hours of 10 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. on said day, beginning at 10:00 A.M., proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title and interest of the Defendants in such suits in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said Defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Colorado and the State of Texas, to-wit:

DATED at Columbus, Texas, March 11, 1994

Bill Esterling, Sheriff, Colorado County, Texas  
BY: Carol Scott, Deputy

Sealed proposals, plainly marked, addressed to the Commissioners' Court of Colorado County, Texas, will be received at the office of the County Judge at Columbus, Texas, until 10:00 a.m., Monday, April 11, 1994, and then publicly opened and read before the Commissioners' Court at the regular meeting place of said Court in the County Courthouse at Columbus, Texas, for the following:

Cover rock for Precinct No. 3, limestone to be picked up, seal coating and double asphalt of County roads.

Specifications to be obtained from the County Judge's Office (409-732-2604).

Bidder will use lump sum or unit pricing as per specifications. Payment will be made upon receipt of invoice after delivery is made and proper processing by Commissioners' Court.

The Commissioners' Court reserves the right to waive all technicalities and the right to reject any and all bids. By Order of the Commissioners' Court dated March 14, 1994.

H.O. Strunk, County Judge

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ORA WALKER, Deceased, were issued on March 15, 1994, in Docket No. 8541, pending in the County Court of Colorado County, Texas, to: LEONARD LLOYD WALKER and DORIS RUTH WALKER THOMAS.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows:

LEONARD LLOYD WALKER and DORIS RUTH WALKER THOMAS Co-Independent Executors, Estate of ORA WALKER, Deceased c/o DONALD N. BENDY, P.C.

P.O. Box 858 Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0858

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 16th day of March, 1994.

DONALD N. BENDY, P.C. By: Donald N. Bendy Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO NOMINATE BY PETITION

The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) is accepting nominations for County Committee elections for the Austin, Waller and Colorado County area committee. This notice is issued to inform eligible voters of the right to nominate candidates by petition. Copies of the petition and instructions on its completion can be obtained from your local FmHA office.

Persons nominated within the county or area in which activities of the county or area committee are carried out. They must be citizens of the United States or aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence, and be well qualified for committee work. Spouses of those persons who meet the eligibility criteria are also eligible for nomination for election to the county committee. Nominations must be received in the FmHA county office no later than May 19, 1994. First44 committee elections are open to all eligible voters without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, political affiliation, marital status, sex, and/or handicap.

Front office receptionist needed for eye clinic. Send resume to 14859 Southwest Freeway, Sugar Land, TX 77478-3435.

Deadline: 6 p.m. Monday.

Easy work! Excellent pay! Assemble products at home. Call toll free 1-800-467-5566 ext. 6522.

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applied as the law directs.

Other properties which are being offered for sale at the above referenced time and place by the Colorado County Central Appraisal District as Trustee for the various taxing entities which own said property are:

SUIT NO. STYLE OF SUIT AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

3846 Colorado County Central Appraisal District vs. Pearl Gooden, et al

Tract 1: Lot 2, Block 1, McCreary Addition to the City of Eagle Lake, Colorado County, Texas, as shown by a plat filed in Volume 190, Page 575 of the Colorado County Deed Records.

Tract 2: Lot 8, Block 5, Putney Road Addition to the City of Eagle Lake, Colorado County, Texas, as shown by a plat filed in Slide 14 of the Colorado County Deed Records.

SUIT NO. STYLE OF SUIT AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

3628 Colorado County Central Appraisal District vs. Douglas Ward, et al

355 acre, Block 4, Highland Park Addition, City of Eagle Lake, Colorado County, Texas, as described by a Deed recorded in Volume 357, Page 432, of the Colorado County Deed Records.

SUIT NO. STYLE OF SUIT AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

3808 Colorado County Central Appraisal District vs. Charles Fuller, Trustee

Lots 1-16 of the Prairie State Addition, aka Lot 6, Block 40, City of Eagle Lake as shown in a plat recorded in Volume 131, Page 191 of the Colorado County Deed Records.

(any volume and page references, unless otherwise indicated, being to the Deed Records, Colorado County, Texas, to which instruments reference may be made for a more complete description of each respective tract.)

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