

# Octoberfest program set for 50+ adults

Experience fall and nature at its best this year "Deep in the Heart of Texas". That's what folks 50 and over will be doing at the Texas 4-H Center on Lake Brownwood when adults will enjoy the annual Octoberfest during Oct. says Colorado County Extension Agent, Family & Consumer Sciences, Sally Garrett.

Sponsored by the Texas Agricul-

tural Extension Service (TAES), Oc-toberfest is offered for men and women alike to enjoy the wonderful activities offered during the week of Oct. 16-19.

Opportunities include "hands-on" learning centers where one can learn holiday crafts, line dancing, and other exciting projects. Education programs on topics such as horticulture, photog-

raphy, nutrition, finances and other current interests are a popular high-light.

Fishing on Lake Brownwood adds popularity to your stay. Lighted tennis courts, horseshoes, billiards, volley-ball, shuffleboard, dominoes, and card and table games are all popular activities. Fun and educational tours are also an option for those who prefer this type of fun!

"Octoberfest... Get In the Game!" will be the featured theme of for the week. A variety of game shows and other activities will be held to add to

the festive atmosphere. The last even-ing will showcase a closing banquet.

Octoberfest 2000! Are you 50 or older? Then it's for you! Get away and learn to make the most of the best years of your life. For further informa-tion or a registration form contact your County Extension office today at 979-732-2530. The registration deadline is Oct. 4.

Educational programs conducted by the TAES serve people of all ages regardless of socio-economic levels, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.



Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) is pleased to announce the recent graduation of 14 students from the Vocational Nursing Program.

The graduates include, in front, from left, Christina Ramirez, Whar-ton; Renee Smith, Bay City; and La Vonne Hiebert, Blossom. In the second row, Robyn Williams, Wharton; April Lark, Bay City; and Peggy Walk-er and Roxan Macias, El Campo. In back are Norma Garcia, Wharton; Tiffany Perez, Bay City; Sarhonda Tolliver, Eagle Lake; Kim Wukasch, Wharton; Jo Ann Gardner, El Campo; Jacqueline King, Sealy; and Diana Martin, Bay City.

Prior to graduation, students successfully completed a year of intensive study to prepare and enable them to pass the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Exam. Upon receiving their Vocational Nursing li-cense, they will practice nursing in many areas of their local communities.

Applications for the 2001 Fall class will be accepted through June 1, 2001. For information and application, contact WCJC's Vocational Nurs-ing Program at 979-532-6491.

# TFB leads all states in Dodge rebate program

Texas leads all state Farm Bureaus in sales of Dodge pickups and vans in the popular \$500 rebate program.

The Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) is new to the Dodge program, having im-plemented it just over two years ago, but the Texas organization has been leading the monthly tally almost from the time it joined the program.

"This is just one of the benefits in our Farm Bureau member service pro-gram," said Charles Harbich, presi-dent of the Colorado County FB.

"It's very popular though, and so far, our members statewide have re-ceived more than \$3.4 million in re-bates."

Figures released by the TFB show that 6,830 Dodges have been pur-

chased through the program in two years, through July.

Eligible vehicles in the program include Dodge Ram pickups, Dakota pickups, and full size Dodge vans.

On Aug. 14, 2000, the popular Durango sports utility vehicle was added to the program and is now elig-ible for the TFB member rebate.

"It's a simple program" Harbich said. "Our members make their best deal, then present their FB member-ship card for an additional \$500 dis-count."

All members are eligible, but must be "members in good standing" with dues fully paid 30 days prior to the purchase of the vehicle.

# HERITAGE HOUSE NEWS

By Activity Director Linda Tillman

July 6: Mr. Benge visited with the residents and played a lot of new songs for us on his electric key board. The residents and staff really enjoy the music. We all look forward to his visits.

July 7: Ladies' outing to Bonus and Elm Grove. They thanked the activity director for taking them on their outing. They enjoy getting out to the country.

July 10: The resident council meeting was held. Each resident was asked if they have or had any con-cerns. Each resident spoke positively about the staff and food.

July 13: The residents were in-

vited to a breakfast brunch in East Bernard with the Lighthouse Day Care Center. The children fixed breakfast for the residents with some assistance from the staff. They also served us as well.

July 19: Activity Director Till-man and residents of Heritage House attended bingo in Wharton at Avalon Place with the residents there. A good time was had by all.

July 21: The Heritage House bake sale was held and was a great success. All proceeds benefit the resident ac-tivity fund. Thanks to everyone who participated in this bake sale.

# SPORTS

## Varsity Ladies break even in Shiner tourney

The Lady Raiders traveled to Shiner to participate in Lady Coman-che Tournament of Champions Aug. 25 and 26.

Overall for the tournament, the Lady Raiders went 2-2, beating Aus-

tin LBJ, 16-14, 15-3; and Refugio, 15-7, 12-15, 15-10 ; while losing to Shiner, 1-15, 1-15; and Sinton, 7-15, 9-15.

Leading server during the tourna-ment was Shelley Boenisch with nine

points and three aces against Austin LBJ.

During the Shiner match, Crystal Alcalar and Stacy Schneider each scored one point.

Against Refugio, Boenisch scored 14 points while Erin Gold had three service aces.

Janna Janish scored five points and one ace against Sinton. Gold also had an ace during the Sinton match.

Schneider paved the way in kills, posting two against Austin LBJ, one against Shiner, eight against Refugio and one against Sinton.

Janish also had two kills against LBJ. Kristin Thompson also had a kill in the Shiner match.

Alcalar posted 19 assists for the tournament while Gold had five.

Boenisch had a total of five digs, Schneider had three, Amanda Burrow and Patricia Najera had five and Jan-ish had nine for all the matches.

Jessica Spanihel led in three of the four games in blocking with a total of seven. Lauren Spanihel, Thompson and Leila Baggett each had one.

"The Ladies played hard at times, but not when it was crucial. We have a very talented team, but we have too many mental breakdowns," according to Coach Wendy Dietrich.

"We are capable of playing with any team we meet on the court... if we put our mind to it."

# Lady Raiders host Weimar and Boling

Tuesday, Aug. 22, the Lady Raid-ers varsity volleyball team hosted Weimar and Boling for a dual match.

Starting off the evening was the match between Weimar and Rice.

It was a tough match between the two teams, but unfortunately, Rice fell behind 7-15 and 8-15.

"Weimar is a good team and we made too many mistakes they were able to take advantage of," Coach Wendy Dietrich said.

Four girls led the team in six dif-ferent categories. Stacy Schneider led in serving with five points for the match; Janna Janish led in kills (two), digs (seven) and service reception (eight); while Jessica Spanihel added five blocks.

To end the evening, the Lady Raiders took the court against Boling.

With a loss behind them, the Lad-ies turned up the intensity to get their first win of the season. It was a tightly called match, but the Ladies pulled through when the pressure was on.

Scores for the match were 15-9,

12-15 and 16-14.

"It was a tough win, but that makes it even better," said Coach Dietrich. "I was very proud of all of the girls for the way they played and held their com-posure. It showed we can handle the pressure in a must-win situation."

# JV plays well in scrimmage

As a whole, the Rice Raider JV football team had a good scrimmage. Parts of the scrimmage were rough, but that's to be expected in the first scrimmage of the year.

Taking into consideration that a few freshmen were moved up to play JV, they played well.

Defensively, Daniel Hernandez, Tyrence Dabney, Michael Cooper and Ricky Cunningham played well.

On the offensive side of the ball, Jesus Ortiz, Jamie Hutchinson and Andrew Varley had good games.

# Columbus

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team with three blocks.

After getting a short break, the Lady Raiders went on to face Bren-ham later the same evening.

The Lady Raiders jumped on top with Boenisch serving five straight points with three big aces.

For the night, Boenisch led the team in serving with seven service points as well as seven digs.

The first game was a close one... 14-16 in favor of Brenham. They went on to win the second game 4-15.

Also, taking charge for the Lady Raiders was Janish with two kills on two attempts.

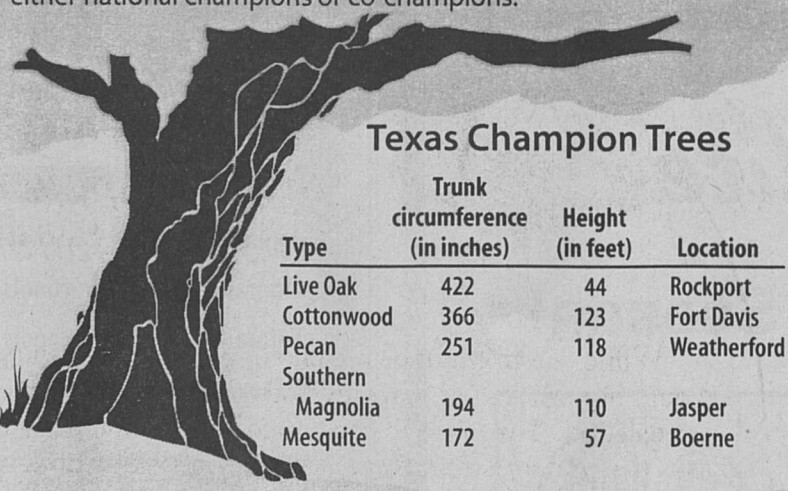
Crystal Alcalar did her job of get-ting the hitters the ball and posted six assists for the match.

J. Spanihel also added two more blocks to her stats.

Keeping an Eye on Texas

Trees the size of Texas

The Texas Forest Service coordinates the Big Tree Registry program. The registry locates and recognizes the largest known tree species in Texas. Hidalgo County has the most state champions—36—while Brewster County is second with 17. Texas ranks number three in the nation with a total of 83 trees that are either national champions or co-champions.



Texas Champion Trees


Type	Trunk circumference (in inches)	Height (in feet)	Location
Live Oak	422	44	Rockport
Cottonwood	366	123	Fort Davis
Pecan	251	118	Weatherford
Southern Magnolia	194	110	Jasper
Mesquite	172	57	Boerne

SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (www.window.state.tx.us), Texas Forest Service.

El bienestar de Texas

Arboles a la Altura de Texas

El Servicio Forestal de Texas coordina el programa de Registro de Arboles Grandes, que localiza y reconoce las especies de árboles más grandes en el estado. El Condado de Hidalgo es el que tiene más campeones—36—siguiéndole el Condado de Brewster, con 17. Texas se encuentra en el tercer lugar de la clasificación nacional con un total de 83 árboles que poseen la categoría de campeones nacionales o bien la comparten.



Arboles Campeones de Texas

Tipo	Circunferencia del Tronco (en pulgadas)	Altura (en pies)	Localización
Roble Vivo	422	44	Rockport
Alamo	366	123	Fort Davis
Nogal	251	118	Weatherford
Magnolia del Sur	194	110	Jasper
Mesquite	172	57	Boerne

FUENTES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Contralora de Cuentas Públicas de Texas y Servicio Forestal de Texas.

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The Rice Hospital District will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 30.1 percent. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearing will be held on September 7, 2000 at 7:00 PM at the Prairie Edge Museum, 408 E. Main, Eagle Lake, Texas.

FOR the proposal: Obie Rhodes, Michael Thomas, Steve Balas, Robert Wilcox, Joan Matthews, Mark Anderson

AGAINST the proposal: Billy Hefner, Joe Mike Spanihel

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Betty Wegenhoft

The following table compares taxes on an average home in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average home this year. Again, your individual taxes may be higher or lower, depending on the taxable value of your property.

	Last Year	This Year
Average residence homestead value	\$39,239	\$39,694
General exemptions available (amount available on the average homestead, not including senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$7,848	\$7,939
Average taxable value	\$31,391	\$31,755
Tax rate	.1400/\$100	.1800/\$100
Tax	\$43.95	\$57.16

Under this proposal, taxes on the average homestead would increase by \$13.21 or 30.1 percent compared with last year's taxes. Comparing tax rates without adjusting for changes in property value, the tax rate would increase by \$12.56 per \$100 of taxable value or 28.6 percent compared to last year's tax rate. These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.