



Left to right: Kristy Kulhanek, Kayla Pfeffer, and Sally Garrett at Health Rocks! training in Jackson, MS.

4-H Youth Participate In Health Rocks Training

Kristy Kulhanek, Kayla Pfeffer and Sally Garrett, Colorado County Extension Agent of Colorado County 4-H, joined youth from across the nation in acquiring knowledge and skills as a teacher and trainer during Health Rocks! training workshop held in Jackson, Mississippi sponsored by Mississippi State University Extension Service and National 4-H Council.

During the training workshop, teams of youth and adults participated in workshops including decision making, identifying risks, stress management and youth-adult partnerships. Here in Colorado County these Colorado County 4-H youth are providing the training for area youth. The programs teach life skills such as critical thinking and communications as well as ways to avoid peer

pressure. The Health Rocks! curriculum targets the area of making wise choices through a youth-adult partnership. Research indicates that youth who have positive social skills and competencies are more likely to be successful in their local communities.

The Health Rocks! training workshop was designed to help

teens gain teaching skills through a train-the-trainer model. The program works to bring youth and adults together as partners in developing strategies that prepare youth to make healthy choices.

For further information on the Health Rocks! program contact the Colorado County office of Texas Cooperative Extension at 979-732-2530.

Lopez Pitches Gem In 11-Year Old All Star Game

Recently Manny Lopez, grandson of Roy and Jackie Morales and great grandson of Connie Morales, all of Eagle Lake, pitched an 8-0 shutout in an 11-year little league all star tournament in Arkansas. Lopez is the son of Trudy and Manuel Lopez, Jr., of Rosenberg.

Following is a story about the game that appeared in the Ft. Bend Herald, written by Gary Martin:

Pat Combs was still a little groggy after a grueling 11-hour drive back home from Blytheville, Ark. But his competitive drive still allowed him to bask in the success the Lamar National 11-year-old All-stars enjoyed the

night before.

Exactly two weeks after losing the East Texas State championship to Santa Fe, Lamar National on Tuesday gained a small measure of revenge in grand style, whipping the Galveston County All-star team by an 8-0 count at the Sub-Southwest Regional tournament.

Winning pitcher Manny Lopez was the hero on this night. The burly right-hander went the distance, tossing a three-hit shutout. He struck out five and walked two. It was the first time this group of Santa Fe All-stars had ever been blanked.

"Manny was just unbelievable," said Combs. "He threw an extraordinary game. He made pitches when he had to.

"He made some of their batters look silly, and that's saying something against a team like Santa Fe."

Lopez also paced Lamar National's 11-hit attack, going 3-for-4 including a solo home run in the second. He also added a double and a single as the George Park All-stars rocked Santa Fe ace Jack Kaiser and reliever Jacob Mullins.

"We talked to the kids about facing Kaiser," said Combs. "We

had already seen him so the intimidation factor was not there, and the kids went to the plate with a lot of confidence.

"The kids were seeing the ball well, and went into the game thinking they would do well, obviously it showed."

After a scoreless first inning, Lopez lead off the second by powered a Kaiser offering over the right-field fence. Lucas DuVal (2-for-3) singled and Daniel Mangel doubled to put runners in scoring position for James DuVal, who had the fourth consecutive hit off Kaiser to score Lucas DuVal. A.J. Jackopin's sacrifice fly made it 3-0.

Kaiser went three-plus innings, throwing eight pitches in the fourth before he was lifted in favor of Mullins. Lamar National wasted little time in cranking out six hits to score five runs in the fifth and put the win away.

Conner Combs (2-for-3) led off with a double and Jonathan Rivenburg singled. Consecutive RBI singles by Shane McCarley and Lopez scored Combs and Rivenburg, respectively, to make it 5-0.

Lucas DuVal then doubled in McCarley and Brooks Williams capped off the outburst with a



Manny Lopez

two-run single, scoring McCarley and Lopez.

Pat Combs was pleased with his team's all-around effort at the Sub-Southwest Regionals, giving hope for further success next year.

"We played extremely well," said Pat Combs. "This tourney helped our team grow in confidence, and answered a lot of questions for what we can expect next year.

"Our district will be tough next year. Four or five Little Leagues in our district can win regionals, so it's going to be a real battle."

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Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The Colorado County Commissioners' Court will hold two public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 8.7 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). 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 hearings will be held on August 28th @ 9:15 a.m. and September 1st @ 9:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom-Courthouse 1st Floor, Columbus, Texas.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR: A.G. Jamison, Doug Wessels, Herbie Helmcamp, Tommy Hahn, Darrell Gertson
AGAINST: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: None

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	10.55% (increase) or _____% (decrease)
Debt service	1.64% (increase) or _____% (decrease)
Total expenditures	10.31% (increase) or _____% (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value as calculated under section 26.04, Tax Code

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value of all property	\$ 1,383,509,536	\$ 1,540,508,346
Total appraised value of all new property	\$ 19,787,772	\$ 20,453,490
Total taxable value of all property	\$ 1,251,453,026	\$ 1,405,174,578
Total taxable value of all new property	\$ 17,782,881	\$ 18,244,665

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness \$ 2,005,000.00

Tax Rates

Adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$ 0.42758 per \$100 in value
Proposed tax rate for the current tax year	\$ 0.41890 per \$100 in value
Difference in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$ 0.00868 per \$100 in value
Percentage increase or decrease in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	_____ % increase OR 2.07 % decrease

These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.

Comparison of Residence Homestead Values

Average appraised and taxable values on residence homesteads are compared from the preceding tax year and the current tax year.

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$ 75,559.00	\$ 79,866.00
Homestead exemption amount for the taxing unit (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled)	\$ 16,296.00	\$ 16,722.00
Average taxable value of a residence homestead (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled)	\$ 59,263.00	\$ 63,144.00

Comparison of Residence Homestead Taxes

The taxes that would have been imposed in the preceding tax year on a residence homestead at the average appraised value (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled) are estimated to be \$ 253.40. The taxes that would be imposed in the current tax year on a residence homestead appraised at the average appraised value in the current tax year (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled), if the proposed tax rate is adopted, are estimated to be \$ 264.51. The difference between the amount of taxes on the average residence homestead in the current tax year, if the proposed tax rate is adopted, and the preceding tax year would be an increase of \$ 11.11 or a decrease of \$ _____ in taxes.

Texas Crop Weather Report

Agricultural Summary

At least 0.25 inches of rain fell in areas of the High Plains, Trans-Pecos, Upper Coast, South East, and Blacklands.

Isolated locations in those places received one to two inches.

Many counties throughout Texas recorded at least 0.1 inches of precipitation.

Most of the state reported temperatures at or over 100 degrees during the week.

Despite the rain, there were more reports of wells going dry in a number of areas.

Growers in the Northern High Plains began to plant winter wheat in hopes of rain this month.

Army worms were active in East Texas and the Edwards Plateau.

Moisture from recent rains continued to delay harvest in some areas of the Upper Coast.

Field Crops Report

Cotton: Dryland plants in the Plains, stressed by hot and dry conditions, increased their shedding of blooms and bolls.

Most of the dryland acres in the Plains had reached cutout. Growers in the Northern High Plains were debating whether to shut off irrigation soon, as the irrigated crop was at or near cutout. Farmers were defoliating in

the Blacklands, and some began to harvest.

Harvest was in full swing in the Coastal Bend, South Texas, and the Lower Valley.

Wet conditions delayed harvest in the Upper Coast. Statewide, cotton condition was mostly rated poor to very poor.

Corn: The crop was quickly approaching maturity in the Northern High Plains, and farmers were planning to stop irrigating and let the crop dry down for harvest.

Growers in that area also harvested for silage. Harvest for grain was winding down in the Blacklands. The corn condition statewide was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Sorghum: Growers irrigated in the Northern High Plains, where the irrigated crop was heading out but many dryland fields never headed.

Producers were finishing harvest in the Coastal Bend. Statewide, sorghum condition was mostly rated fair to very poor.

Peanuts: Peanuts were doing well under constant irrigation in the Southern High Plains, where plants were filling pods.

Peanut condition statewide was rated mostly good to fair.

Rice: The condition of rice was mostly rated good to fair

statewide.

Soybeans: The majority of the crop in areas of the Blacklands was baled for hay.

Some acreage was destroyed in the Upper Coast by recent excessive rains that rotted the seed in the pods.

Statewide, the condition was mostly rated poor to very poor.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Cantaloupe and watermelon harvest neared completion in the Trans-Pecos. Growers harvested some remaining watermelons in South Central Texas, but size and quality were down.

Pumpkins looked very good in the Northern High Plains, especially the later planted crop.

Pecans: Good nut filling was reported in the Trans-Pecos, where some yellow aphids were present but under control.

There was little or no damage by casebearer, and not many webworms, in the Trans-Pecos.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Some cattle were bought for grazing winter wheat being planted in the Northern High Plains.

In most areas, range conditions continued to decline, and hay was scarce and expensive.

Exceptions were in locations that received rain recently, including East Texas, the Trans-Pecos, and coastal areas. Ranchers in drought-stressed areas provided supplemental feeding, and Cross Timbers producers were reported to be buying rolls of corn and milo instead of expensive bales of Bermuda.

Producers continued to liquidate herds due to dry conditions and not enough grazing.

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STEERS	#1	#2
200-300 lbs	160-190	130-155
300-400 lbs	145-166	123-144
400-500 lbs	128-145	117-128
500-600 lbs	116-128	103-115
600-700 lbs	110-116	96-108
700-800 lbs	102-112	92-100

HEIFERS	#1	#2
200-300 lbs	145-165	130-144
300-400 lbs	127-144	116-127
400-500 lbs	114-129	108-114
500-600 lbs	108-118	98-107
600-700 lbs	98-110	88-97
700-800 lbs	90-100	82-89

STOCKER COWS		
Good Stocker Cow/calf Pairs	800-900	
Medium Cow/calf Pairs	650-790	
Common Cow/calf Pairs	575-645	
Good Stocker Cows & Heifers	650-775	
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers	475-600	

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