

THC Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15 - Oct. 15

Hispanic heritage is an important part of Texas' culture and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) invites you to learn more about its colorful contributions to the Texas legacy during Hispanic Heritage Month.

To promote awareness of Hispanic culture in Texas, THC has

information on its website (www.thc.state.tx.us) and in the Los Camino del Rio brochure (one of several THC travel guides that references Hispanic heritage).

Nationally recognized since 1968, the month from Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 is a time to celebrate the real places and real stories that shape this important element of Texas' history.

"There are a number of truly remarkable historic sites throughout the state of Texas that are directly attributed to the Hispanic influence," said Janie Headrick, state coordinator of the Texas Heritage Trails Program (THTP). "Hispanic heritage has dramatically shaped Texas culture and the THC explores some of those legacies, stories and unique places in Texas in the Los Camino del Rio brochure."

The THC features a special tourism guide encouraging visitors to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with Los Caminos del Rio (The Roads of the River): Legacies of the Borderlands.

This colorful brochure entices travelers to experience shared Hispanic traditions from food to music to a mixture of the English and Spanish languages along the historic Los Caminos del Rio heritage corridor.

Notable sites that contribute to the story of Texas include the Jesús Treviño Fort in San Ygnacio, a remnant of the fortified stone compound built by Spanish settlers for protection from Native Americans; the Roma and Ciudad Miguel Alemán International Suspension Bridge — the last suspension bridge over the Rio Grande; the Southern Pacific Depot in McAllen, illustrating the importance of the steam engine to commercial transportation

in the early 1900s; and the Old River Pumphouse in Hidalgo, the last river irrigation pumphouse, which has been transformed into a museum.

The THTP provides helpful resources for those looking to get out and explore Texas history.

The award-winning regional tourism initiative increases visitation at cultural and heritage sites in regions across the state and revitalizes local economies

through tourism development and marketing.

A key component of the THTP is a series of heritage travel guides designed to enhance visitors' experiences at local attractions.

The program currently offers eight heritage travel guides — Texas Brazos, Forest, Forts, Independence, Lakes, Mountain, Plains and Tropical Trail Regions.

Each heritage guide offers

travelers a valuable opportunity to personally experience what makes this state extraordinary, while providing maps and historical information related to specific regions.

The THC also offers a series of thematic brochures — Texas in the Civil War, Texas in World War II and The Chisholm Trail. For free heritage travel guides, please call 866/276-6219 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us to download

copies. For additional information on Texas travel events and vacation destinations, visit www.TravelTex.com, or for a free Texas State Travel Guide, call 1-800-8888-TEX.

The Texas Historical Commission is the state agency for historic preservation.

The agency administers a variety of programs to preserve the archeological, historical and cultural resources of Texas.

Nada KJTs Report On Recent Activities

Nada KJT #34 met on Saturday, September 28, at 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish Hall. President Clem Korenek called the meeting to order and led the opening prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

Grace Korenek in the absence of secretary/treasurer Kelly Korenek called the roll of officers

attending were Korenek, and vice president, Mark Eggemeyer. Grace also gave the secretary and treasurers reports. Korenek introduced and welcomed State KJT Director Elizabeth Mokry of Sinton.

Korenek gave a report on the State Family Day held on August 10, in La Grange.

He stated that approximately 300 attended and the time coincided with the KJT Youth Camp. It was noted that 94 youths attended the camp this year.

He also reported that Clem, Grace and Jared Korenek from the Nada society helped to cook the meal for Family Day with Mass beginning the festivities.

Korenek was asked to teach Czech lessons at the youth camp. He taught four sessions consisting of twenty to twenty-five youths.

Mokry also reported on the family day and reminded everyone to call the home office for information on the Memorial Fund Foundation.

Grace Korenek reported that the Harvest Season Dinner held in July to benefit the Religious Retirement Fund of the Victoria Diocese was given.

The \$500 profited from the event was donated to the retirement fund and a check for that amount was presented to State Director Elizabeth Mokry.

Korenek and Mokry presented a 50 year membership pin to Allan Labay.

Korenek reported that the society has three new junior members, Austin Dota grandson of Ed Lee and Ernestine Schneider and Brady Layne and Caroline Elise Korenek 5 month twins, children of Nicholas and Kimberly Korenek.

Korenek stated that the society is taking new members and anyone interested can call him at 758-3642.

Member Connie Schoellmann gave a report on the health of our sick members. It was announced that the Christmas meeting will be held on December 14, after the 10 a.m. mass.

With no further business the meeting was closed with prayer. Following the meeting members enjoyed refreshments provided by the society.



Displaying just a few of the live auction items up for grabs at the Rice Harvest Ball October 11 are from left to right: Chris Ponton, Janie Sosa with the travel certificate for the Caribbean cruise, Annie Jenkins, and Betty Guthmann with the ColoVista Play N Stay package.

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Emergency Farm Loan Apps. Being Accepted

Applications for emergency farm loans for losses caused by drought and high winds that occurred on January 1, 2008 and continuing, are being accepted at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office located in Bellville, Farm Loan Manager Tim Respondek said recently.

Colorado County is one of 6 in Texas recently named by the Secretary of Agriculture eligible

for loans to cover part of actual production and/or physical losses caused by drought and high winds that occurred on January 1, 2008 and continuing.

Mr. Respondek said farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 100 percent of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue the agricultural business, whichever is less. For farm-

ers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest rate is 3.75 percent.

"As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of production to be eligible for an FSA emergency loan," Mr. Respondek said. Farmers participating in the Federal Crop Insurance program will have to consider proceeds from those programs in determining their loss.

Over My Shoulder

A monthly review of the livestock market by J.D. Sartwelle, Jr.

September was mostly about Hurricane Ike if you lived in the southern half of Texas.

Throughout the month there were other happenings that had to do with other hurricanes, failures of financial markets, mortgage markets, governmental bailouts, presidential politics as well as the everyday, ongoing livestock marketing picture.

Ike came in at the middle of the month, tore up Galveston and surrounding areas and created much havoc to the agriculture scene, most particularly in the area south of Interstate 10 from Trinity Bay to Beaumont-Port Arthur into Cameron Parrish in Southwest Louisiana.

Most of the area is strictly cow country with some cropland.

Those close to the water were able to drive cattle to higher ground but couldn't go far enough as surge water pushed further inland than anybody's memory who is alive today.

Those that were farther inland still experienced heavy wind damage, loss of infrastructure, and were and are to be without power for a long time.

Those in the agriculture community began to respond to devastated cowmen's needs beginning the day after the storm by hauling water troughs to designated "gathering areas" delivering and pumping fresh water, and receiving donated feed and hay by generous folks from everywhere.

The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association sent their officers and Special Rangers in mass to help identify cattle, while the Texas Department of Agriculture mobilized trucks to transport donated feed with help and oversight by Texas AgriLife Extension Service personnel.

Other local groups like ICA, volunteer fire departments hauling fresh water, truckers hauling cattle out, area livestock markets receiving cattle and a myriad of cattle people helping cattle people characterized and punctuated the efforts to properly care for gathered livestock.

Dozens of ranchers from South Texas to East Texas offered to provide pasture and care for livestock out of the area.

While the after storm con-

sumed most of our attention till the end of the month, life and the industry did go on.

Moisture effects from the storm put more water down outside of the state rather than in the state but still left useful moisture along with moisture from the first of month storm.

The clean side of Ike did not put down as much water as many in the very dry areas really wanted or needed.

Hog Numbers Up

The Sept. 1 Texas hog and pig inventory, at 1.14 million head, was up 2 percent from the September 2007 total of 1.12 million head.

The number of breeding hogs totaled 110,000 head, up 10 percent from last year's total, according to figures released by the Texas Field Office.

The September 1 market hog inventory was up 1 percent from a year ago to 1.03 million head, 90 percent of the total hog and pig inventory.

The inventory of market hogs weighing less than 60 pounds, at 330,000 head, was down 7 percent from the previous year.

The inventory of hogs weighing 60 to 119 pounds, at 250,000 head, was up 16 percent from the September 2007 inventory.

Market hogs weighing 120 to 179 pounds totaled 215,000 head, down 2 percent from last year. Hogs weighing 180 pounds and over, at 235,000 head, were up 2 percent.

The June-August 2008 Texas pig crop totaled 445,000 head, down 15 percent from last year. Pigs per litter averaged 8.55,

down 6 percent from the previous year.

State Director David Abbe reported that 52,000 sows farrowed in Texas during June through August 2008, down 10 percent from last year.

The U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on Sept. 1 is estimated at 68.7 million head, up 2 percent from Sept. 1, 2007, and 1 percent above the June 1, 2008, inventory.

The breeding hog inventory, at 6.05 million head, was down 3 percent from last year.

Market hog inventory, at 62.6 million head, was up 3 percent from last year.

The U.S. pig crop for June-August 2008, at 29.3 million head, was up 1 percent from 2007. U.S. producers intend to have 3.01 million sows farrow during the September-November 2008 period, down 5 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2007.

Intended farrowings for December 2008-February 2009, at 2.98 million sows, are down 3 percent from the same period last year.