

# \$2.6 Million Slated For Home Weatherization

U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett today announced that Colorado County and eight nearby counties will receive \$2.6 million

in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to make their homes more energy efficient.

"This recovery money means more jobs and lower energy bills," said Congressman Doggett, a senior member of the House Ways

and Means Committee. "These funds not only help improve the quality of life for our local families, but are another source of work in a tightening economy."

The additional federal funding means that workers in Central Texas can weatherize nearly ten times as many homes as they were able to last year."

Colorado County residents will be eligible to apply for grants from the Weatherization Assistance Program funding to be administered by the Combined Community Action.

These funds will be used for weatherization improvements to local homes, such as adding more insulation, sealing leaks, or modernizing heating and air conditioning equipment.

Weatherization improvements of up to \$6,500 per home are authorized under the program. The Combined Community Action's total budget for the two-year cycle beginning April 1, 2009 is \$3.7 million, compared to its budget of \$27,389 in 2008.

The agency estimates that this additional funding will mean it can weatherize approximately 30 to 50 houses each month, compared with the 63 houses it weatherized during all of last year.

A family of four with a combined income of less than \$44,000, for example, or an individual with an income of less than \$21,000, who has not received previous weatherization assistance should apply to Combined Community Action at its website ([www.ccaction.com](http://www.ccaction.com)) or by calling 1-800-688-9065.

Rhoda Gersch, Executive Director of Combined Community Action said the increased funding meant more homes served and more jobs.

"With these recovery funds, we will be able to weatherize over 300 more homes this year than last year.

Not only will the households conserve energy, giving the family more disposable income, but, the contractor completing the work will employ 18 more persons who were in danger of or had been laid off.

The agency may also be employing an additional contractor to complete the work."

## Ross Essay Nets Washington, D.C. Trip

In 1957 Lyndon B. Johnson said co-ops should send young people to Washington, D.C. to see what the flag stands for. Texas electric cooperatives followed this advice and joined other co-ops from across the country in sponsoring trips to the nation's capitol for young students eager to witness government in action.

For several years San Bernard Electric Cooperative has played a role by sponsoring two youths with this opportunity.

The Youth Tour aligns with the Fifth Cooperative Principle, "Education, Training, and Information," which obligates co-ops to provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees as well as young people, the future leaders of their rural communities.

This year Gabrielle Matocha a student at La Grange ISD and Jesse Ross a student at Rice CISD won the essay contest and they will be representing SBEC, their community and their school in Washington DC. Gabrielle says, "I am honored that I can represent San Bernard Electric Cooperative on this trip and I am happy that I was chosen because I know it will be a trip of a lifetime for me."

Jesse Ross adds, "It is an honor to be chosen for this trip. This is a great honor coming from the small town of Sheridan gives me the opportunity to see more of the country that I live in and to view its' history."

The 2009 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., set for June 11 to 19, will mark the 44th year that Texas electric cooperatives have participated. An estimated 1,500 youth from cooperatives across the U.S. are expected to participate in this year's tour.

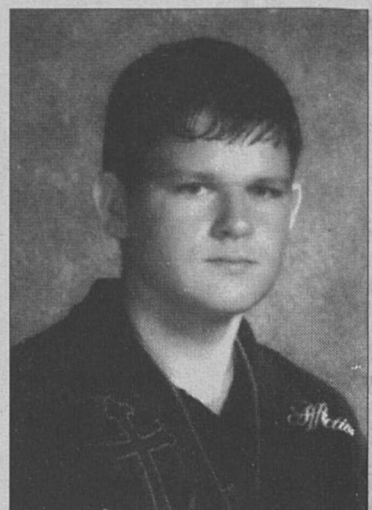
The objectives of the Youth Tour are three-fold:

To educate youth on all aspects of rural electrification in order to promote a better understanding of the value of rural electric cooperatives;

To provide an opportunity for youth to visit monuments, government buildings and cooperative-related organizations in order to become familiar with the historical and political environment of their nation's capitol; and

To provide an opportunity for youth to meet elected officials in order to better understand how their federal government works.

"San Bernard Electric Co-



Jesse Ross

operative thinks it is vital to get the youth of America involved in the political process. This is why we sponsor two students for the youth tour to Washington D.C.," states Billy Marricle, President and General Manager.

## EAGLE LAKE WEATHER REPORT

Information Courtesy of Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Experiment Station, Eagle Lake

Date	Temp (H/L)	Rainfall(in.)
Mon. 04-13-09	75/47	0.00
Tue. 04-14-09	78/48	0.00
Wed. 04-15-09	79/53	0.00
Thu. 04-16-09	77/62	0.00
Fri. 04-17-09	74/60	1.37
Sat. 04-18-09	70/61	1.60
Sun. 04-19-09	75/53	0.00

## City Council

Continued from front page

Council agreed to proceed with identity theft training for employees by Affirmative Defense Response System so long as the company was willing to do the training without requiring the city to use payroll deduction for employees that wished to sign up for Pre Paid Legal Services. Council said that if employees wanted to sign up for the program that they were free to do so on their own. The training was offered to the city at no cost.

Council was told that the Texas Department of Transportation did not have any funds available for improvements to the intersection of McCarty and FM 102. Council had asked that the matter be looked into due to safety concerns regarding tractor trailer truck turning there.



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## NEWSBRIEFS

Continued from front page

If you live out of the Rice CISD attendance zone you must apply for an Out-of-District transfer by May 1, 2009. The Rice School Board will approve or deny transfers. Please call the office at 979-758-3385 if you have any questions.

### Old Skool Casino Trip May 2

The Old Skool Organization will be going to the Coshatta Casino Resort on Saturday, May 2. Cost is \$20 per person and needs to be paid by April 24. The bus will leave B&B Grocery in Eagle Lake at 5 p.m. May 2 and will return to Eagle Lake at 9 a.m. May 3. For additional information or to sign up contact Kevin Earls at 979-257-7489 or Sue Ann Scott at 979-332-1168.

### Chicken fried steak dinner is May 3

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department will hold a Chicken Fried Steak Dinner on May 3. The meal will be Chicken Fried Steak, rice and gravy, green beans and dessert. The price per plate is \$7. Tickets may be purchased from any Eagle Lake Auxiliary Member or Fire Dept. member. The plates may be picked up on May 3 at the Fire Station from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. please contact Betsy Glaiser at 979-234-2976, if you should have any questions.

### CCHFH Planning Ground blessing

Colorado County Habitat for Humanity has broken ground on its' next house to be built in Eagle Lake. Blessing of the site will take place on Saturday May 9 at 4:30 p.m. The house will be built in partnership with the Angelia Gonzales family. The address of the future home is 305 Mills Street. The public is invited to join Habitat for the occasion. For more information call 979-732-5677.

### Sorority calendars still available

XI PI PSI sorority birthday calendars for 2009 are still available. Please stop by the Baumgart Agencies to see a 2009 calendar. If you are not listed on the birthday calendar, please contact Ernie Sommerlatte at 234-3452 or Mary Ann Kaluza at 234-2619 or 234-3712.

It could be more than just bothersome. It could be a life-threatening problem.

Talk to your doctor for a referral.

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## Texas State Championship FIDDLERS' FROLICS



Photograph provided by Ronnie and Kris Naquin

April 23-26, 2009

Hallettsville, Texas

### Friday, April 24

- 6:30 p.m. Fiddle Contest Senior Division
- 8:00 p.m. Anything Goes Fiddle Contest
- 9:30 p.m. Fiddlin' Frenchie Burke

### Outdoor Activities (Free)

- 5:00 p.m. Cajun Fun Night
- 6:00 p.m. Songwriters' Serenade (Prelim)

### Saturday, April 25

#### Fiddle Contest

- 9:00 a.m. Forest Craig Freshman Div.
- 1:00 p.m. Gone to Texas (out of state comp.)
- 8:30 p.m. Dance featuring members of **Ace in The Hole Band**

### Outdoor Activities (Free)

- 10:00 a.m. Texas Songwriters' Serenade Finals
- 1:00 p.m. Wilfred Cheviss (Cajun / Zydeco)
- 3:30 p.m. Texas State Championship Sausage Cook-Off - Jackpot BBQ

### Sunday, April 26

#### Fiddle Contest

- 9:30 a.m. Guitar Accompanist Contest
- 10:30 a.m. Texas Fiddlers' Hall of Fame
- 1:00 p.m. Texas State Championship
- 5:00 p.m. Championship Play-Off

### Outdoor Activities (Free)

- 10:30 a.m. Barbecue Showmanship
- 1:00 p.m. Southern Express
- 1:00 p.m. Texas State Championship Barbecue Cook-Off Judging

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SATURDAY 8:00- 2:00

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\$4.99 per pound

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Eagle Lake's MARGARITAVILLE

Join the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce in **MARGARITAVILLE** Saturday, May 2, 2009 4:00 - 10:00 pm

Parish of Nativity Pavilion  
S. Austin Road

\$10 Meal Tickets  
Dine-In or To-Go 5-8 pm • No Outside Food or Drinks Permitted (Children under 6 eat free)

Beer & Margaritas Sold Separately  
**Horseshoe Tournament with Prizes at 2 pm**

Purchase tickets from the Chamber Office or any Chamber Officer.

979-234-2780  
Chamber@elc.net