USDA Allocating Funds for SDA Minority

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) allocates a portion of its farm loan program funds specifically for socially disadvantaged applicants (SDA) including minority and women producers.

"FSA farm loans are available to all qualified applicants. But by setting aside funds specificallly for minorities and women, the agency ensures members of these specific groups can receive a portion of available funds assuming they meet FSA loan eligibility requrirements," said Tim Respondek, farm loan manager of Colorado County.

By FSA definition, an applicant is considered socially disadvantaged if he or she is a member of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice, without regard to individual qualities.

FSA has identified socially disadvantaged groups as women, black, american indians, alaskan natives, hispanics, asians, and pacific islanders.

FSA offers both direct and guaranteed farm loans.

Farm loan can be used to purchase farms, livestock and equipment.

They may also be used to operate a farm, build or repair service buldings, pay for soil and water coonservation practices, and in some cases refinance debt.

For direct loans made by FSA to purchase a farm the terms may extend to 40 years with a current interest rate of four and seven eighths (4.875%).

Direct operating loans may be made for one to seven years with a current interest rate of three (3.000%) which is subject to change.

My child is 8 months old and still doesn't have his first tooth. Is something wrong?

Don't worry. The first tooth can come in anytime between 4 and 12 months. If a tooth hasn't come in by 1 year, there's probably still no reason to worry if your child is growing fine otherwise-he may just be a late bloomer. In rare instances, lack of teeth is a sign of metabolic disorder, but if that was the case a child would have other growth problems as well. If you are concerned, check with your pediatrician.

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155th ANNUAL MENTZ PICNIC

St. Roch Catholic Church – Mentz, Texas

Join us for the Sacrifice of the Mass beginning at 10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

BBQ BEEF, PORK & HOMEMADE SAUSAGE

Adults $8:00 ❖ Children Under 12: $4:00 ❖ Dine in AC comfort or under pavilion
Serving beginning at 11:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

DRIVE-THRU LINE — BBQ & SAUSAGE SOLD AT PIT BY THE POUND

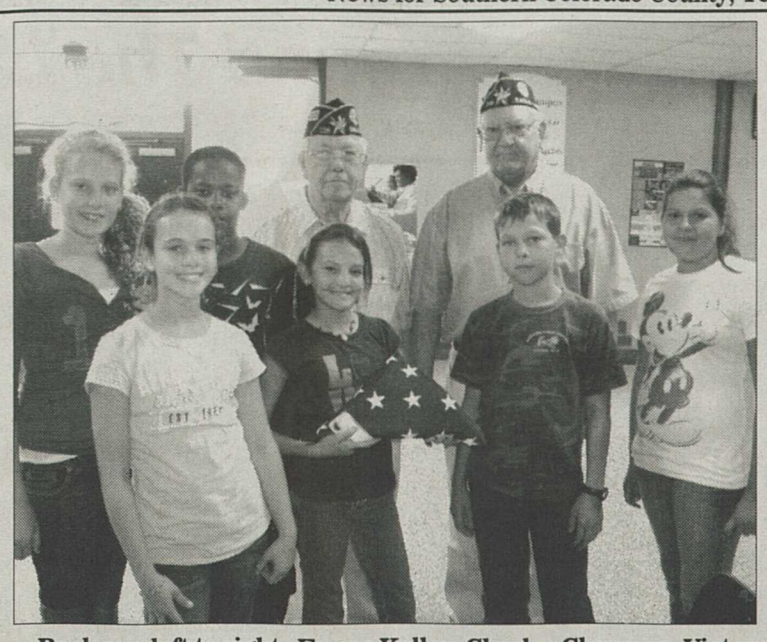
HAMBURGERS — GET A HAMBURGER BEGINNING AT 3:00 P.M.

AUCTION 1:00 p.m. **RAFFLE**

MUSIC Throughout The Day By: LEROY RYBAK'S SWINGING ORCHESTRA

BINGO 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

GROCERY WALK • COUNTRY STORE • CAKE WALK



Back row left to right: Emma Kelley, Charles Chapman, Victor Scott, Kenneth Craig; front row left to right: Cameron Marsalia, Haley LeMaire, Ashton Pavlu and Molly Smidovec.

Legion Visits Garwood

Kenneth Craig, Commander, and Victor Scott, Adjutant, of the American Legion Post #108, Eagle Lake, kindly visited Garwood Elementary School on Thursday, September 10.

The sixth grade class have been given the responsibity of putting up the American flag each day and bringing it down at the end of the day.

Before the new Junior High School was built this was the responsibility of the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade Student Council.

What better way to learn flag ettiquete than a lesson from the American Legion.

Mr. Scott and Mr. Craig showed selected students how to properly fold the flag and also how to raise and lower the flag.

Garwood Elementary enjoyed their visit and would like to thank them for coming out.

Jobless Rate At 6.7 Percent In County

August figures show the Colorado County unemployment rate sitting at 6.7 percent, a decrease of .2 percent from July.

That is still an increase of 2.4 percent from August 2008.

In August in Colorado County, there were 11,663 people employed and 776 seeking employment.

Fayette County unemployment sat at 5.7 percent, showing a decrease of .2 percent from July.

Fayette County is still showing an increase of 2.1 percent from August 2008.

In August for Fayette County, there were 13,065 people employed and 740 looking for work.

Lavaca County unemployment was 6.0 in August, showing a decrease of .3 percent from July and still showing an increase of 2.3 percent from August 2008.

In August in Lavaca County, there were 10,161 people employed and 608 seeking jobs.

The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly to 8.0 percent in August, up from 7.9 percent a month ago, and continued to trend well below the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August at 9.7 percent.

The Texas Civilian Labor Force continued to increase in August remaining above the mark of 12 million workers.

Total nonagricultural employment in Texas fell by 62,200 positions in August.

"Despite our strong Texas economic foundation, the national recession continues to have an adverse impact on our state," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken.

"Nonetheless, the unemployment rate in Texas remained well below the 9.7 percent national rate."

Education and Health Services employment grew by 5,200 jobs in August, following a revised gain of 8,600 jobs in July.

This was the 11th consecutive monthly gain in this industry.

Since August 2008, employment in Education and Health Services increased by 58,600 jobs, a 4.5 percent gain.

"The Texas labor force continued to grow in August, remaining above 12 million workers," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton.

"To help connect workers with available jobs, staff at more than 240 workforce centers across the state is available to provide job-search assistance and other services."

Financial Activities employment increased by 600 jobs in August.

This was the fifth monthly gain since January, and the eighth monthly job increase in the last 12 months.

Since January, this industry added 3,100 jobs.

The hardest hit industries in August were Leisure and Hospitality recording a month-over-month drop of 12,900 positions.

Construction was down 11,700 jobs and the Manufacturing industry employment fell by 10,900 jobs.

"Aside from job gains in Financial Activities and Education and Health Services, the employment situation in most industries was tough in August," said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar.

"TWC and our workforce boards located around the state remain committed to helping out-of-work Texans acquire skills and find jobs."

The Amarillo Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemployment rate at 5.6 percent (not seasonally adjusted), followed by the Lubbock MSA with 5.7 percent, and the Midland and Abilene MSAs with 6.1 percent.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Continued from front page

Austin Rd. (across from the hospital). BBQ beef and sausage plates will be served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. for $8 per plate. You may dine on the pavilion premises or plates will be available to go in a convenient drive-thru line. A live auction will begin at 1 p.m. Other activities include a drawing for 41 prizes (including a $1000 gift card and a $500 gift card), a country store, cake and plant walk, a variety of food booths, and lots of entertainment for the children. Parishioners encourage you to bring the family to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship.

RHS Yearbooks have arrived

The 2009 Rice High School yearbooks have arrived. Books can be picked up in room 1 between 7:50am and 3:30pm. Any balance owed must be paid in full before the book will be released. There are no extra books for sale this year.

Class of '69 to hold reunion

The Eagle Lake High School Class will hold their 40th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 24. For details or more information email Gardner Seaholm at drgas.@earthlink.com or Robert Locklier at robertlocklier@yahoo.com.

How To Foster Your Child's Talent

Childhood is a time of dreams and possibilities, so it's important parents encourage their children's innate talents to help them develop and build self esteem, say experts.

Whatever your child is good at -- music, art, writing, sports, science -- fostering that talent can make a big difference.

And who knows, you may have the next Mozart, Shakespeare or Picasso on your hands!

"I truly believe everyone has an incredible story to tell," says Taylor Joseph, the 16-year-old author of the new teen mystery, "Allison Investigates," which is her second published novel.

"I was eight when I first began writing. When I was 13, my dad encouraged me to pursue an idea I had for a book.

I spent the next year researching and writing, and then he helped me send it to an editor and get it published."

Taylor's debut novel last year at age 15, "The Crossing," tackled illegal immigration.

Her new novel, "Allison Investigates," is about how four friends, each 15, seek to use their sleuthing skills to investigate a rash of auto thefts that involves the unique skateboarding subculture.

The teens learn about teamwork, courage, and pursuing their passion.

Now, thanks to her father's help, Taylor's two novels are available in bookstores like Barnes & Noble and Amazon, she has her own blog at www.taylorsjoseph.com, and has promoted her books with a 15-state tour, doing book signings, speaking at schools, holding library readings and presenting at fairs.

Fostering a child's talent, as did Taylor's father, is about providing the tools to succeed, along with an upbeat, nurturing environment:

*** Locate Strengths:**
Observe your child to locate talent. Being interested in something is not necessarily enough.

Let kids sample everything, but it can be cruel to encourage a child to pursue dreams in which only failure lies ahead.

Gently persuade your child to build on best abilities.

*** Provide The Tools:**
Make sure your child has what it takes, such as art supplies, an instrument, a computer with proper software, or science or sporting equipment.

*** Teach But Back Off:**
Formal instruction can be great, such as piano or art lessons.

But creativity needs space, so know when to back off to let them explore.

Don't overdo it on rules. Have enough to be safe and to develop, but not so many the activity no longer is fun.

*** Set Realistic Goals:**
Most kids aren't going to churn out the great American novel on the first try.

Set goals they can reach and that keep them advancing.

*** Criticize Constructively:**
Praise them for the things they do well and don't be overly critical.

Consult their teachers and coaches on how to offer constructive criticism and in which areas they need improvement.

*** Don't Live Vicariously:**
Know the difference between your dream and that of your child's.

Make sure you aren't pushing your own desires.

*** Make Sure They Socialize:**
Don't let kids become social hermits, engrossed only in their burgeoning talent and not in their social scene with friends.

For her part, teen author Taylor believes it's important for young people to follow their dreams and assert themselves early-on.

By pursuing her passion, she hopes to promote literacy among her peers and interest a new generation in reading.

"My daughter may have published novels, but we work to ensure she's just a regular kid and doesn't spend all her time writing.

She enjoys martial arts, soccer, basketball and time with friends and family," stresses Larry Joseph, proud father of Taylor.

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