

## “Celebrating Rice” Conference is Jan. 20

The theme of the Western Rice Belt Production Conference Consumers' Program on Wednesday, January 20, at the El Campo Civic Center will be

“Celebrating Rice.” This program, sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Colorado, Jackson, Matagorda and Wharton Counties, will provide education, entertainment and fun.

Attendees will watch committee members prepare recipes based around the concept of ‘Cook Once Eat Twice’ in which key ingredients are prepared in larger amounts for use in one

recipe one day and an entirely different recipe within the next day or two.

Brent Batchelor, Matagorda County Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent will be the main speaker and will talk about Rice—Field to Table.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Nancy Matus of Bryan.

Registration and refreshments will begin at 8:30 a.m., and the program will begin at 9 a.m.

The first 200 persons who register will receive registration bags with rice recipes, bags of rice and other educational materials; they

will also be eligible for numerous door prizes that will be given out throughout the morning.

Following the program, all participants will be invited to a catered luncheon.

Persons arriving after 9:30 a.m., however, will not receive registration bags, door prizes or luncheon tickets.

There is no fee, and reserva-

tions are not necessary. This program is open to persons of all ages, regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

Any person who has a disability that may require an accommodation to participate in the conference is asked to contact the Wharton County Extension Office at 979-532-3310.

## Harrison Named 2009 Rotarian of The Year

The Rotary Club of Eagle Lake held its regular Committee and Board meeting on January 6.

Several matters were discussed and votes taken.

The board voted unanimously to approve the nomination of Bill Harrison Sr. as 2009 Rotarian of the Year.

Mr. Harrison narrowly beat out member Jane Meldahl for the honor.

Several other honors will be announced at the next meeting. As all of the members are busy

getting ready for the big freeze a more in depth report will be forthcoming after next week's meeting, providing we have thawed out by then.

The Rotary Club of Eagle Lake extends an open invitation to the citizens of Eagle Lake to join them for coffee and pastries at 7 a.m. on Wednesdays at the Community Center.

An RSVP to eaglelakerotary@hughes.net would be appreciated and insure the availability of enough coffee and pastries.

## Input Sought On Natural Resources

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Colorado County Soil and Water Conservation District invite the public and any agencies with an interest in conservation issues to participate in a Local Work Group meeting.

The meeting will be held at the NRCS Offices located at 2209-A Walnut St. in Columbus.

This meeting will be on January 26, at 10 am.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive input from a broad range of local agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals that have an interest in natural resource conditions and needs in Colorado County.

Input received will allow the Local Work Group to make recommendations on resource concerns to be addressed for county-based funding.

These recommendations will be used in implementing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and other conservation programs offered by NRCS.

The 2008 Farm Bill stipulates that conservation programs must continue to be locally led.

Through stake holder meetings, the public is given an opportunity to help local conservation leaders set program priorities.

These meetings are open to the public.

For more information, call the USDA Service Center office in Columbus at 979-732-2773 Service center locations and program information can be found on the Texas NRCS Web site at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Small Landowner Workshop Set Jan. 23

The Colorado County Farm Bureau and the Colorado County Soil and Water Conservation District No. 333 are co-hosting the 1st Annual Small Land Owner's Workshop on Saturday, Jan. 23 at St. Roch's Parish Hall in Mentz.

The workshop starts at 8:30 a.m.

The cost of the workshop is \$20 per person and includes a BBQ meal.

The deadline to register is Jan. 15.

Sessions include:  
--Pesticide Law and Regulations, Eugene Hinze, Texas Department of Agriculture Senior Pesticide Inspector – 1 Laws and Regs CEU.

--Feral Hog Management, T.J. Muir, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Wildlife Damage Management Biologist – 1 IPM CEU.

--Water Management, Aaron Wendt, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Statewide

Watershed Planning Coordinator -1/2 general CEU.

--The Rules of the Road, Trooper Patrick Zatopek, Corporal V, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Texas Department of Public Safety – 1 Laws and Regs.

--Control of Unwanted Plants in Pasture and Range Land, Andy Carriger, senior R&P Specialist, Dow AgroSciences – 1 IPM CEU, and

--How to Qualify for Ag/Wildlife Exemptions, Bill Mitchell, Chief Appraiser, Colorado County Central Appraisal District – 1/2 general CEU.

For more information, please call Farm Bureau secretaries Gloria Ilse/Erin Young at (979) 732-2383 Monday through Friday, the District secretary Beverly Tuck at (979) 732-9565 Monday through Thursday, or any time -cell (979) 732-7277 or email coloradoswcd333@att.net.

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### THE TRUTH ABOUT DIP AND CHEW

Many professional and amateur athletes use dip and chewing tobacco, and get hooked before they know the facts about tobacco. Chewing tobacco and snuff can cause mouth and throat cancer. Up to a certain point, if you quit, your body can heal itself, but the longer you use tobacco, the bigger your risk of getting cancer.

See your dentist right away if you have a sore that does not heal; a lump or thickening anywhere in your mouth or neck; a soreness or swelling that does not go away; a red or white patch that does not go away; or trouble chewing, swallowing, or moving your tongue or jaw. Even if you don't find a problem, see your dentist or doctor every 3 months. Chances for a cure are best if mouth cancer is found early.

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## Census Indentity Theft Warning Given

By Susan Johnson  
Be cautious about giving information to Census workers. With the U.S. Census Process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft.

The first phase of the 2010 Census is underway as workers have begin verifying the addresses of households across the country.

Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including names, age, gender, race, and other relevant data.

The big question is – how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice:

**\*\* If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they have a badge, or handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice.**

Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.

**\*\* Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information.**

Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.

Remember, no matter what they ask, you really only need to tell them how many people live at your address.

While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial infor-

mation such as a salary range, you don't have to answer anything at all about your financial situation.

The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Any one asking for that information is NOT with the Census Bureau.

And remember, the Census Bureau has decided not to work with Acorn on gathering this information.

No Acorn worker should approach you saying he/she is with the Census Bureau.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by email, so be on the lookout for email scams impersonating the Census.

Never click on a link or open attachments in an email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Please share this information with family and friends.

## Get Laser-Smooth Skin!

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## TAX TIPS from RAY

New Law - Expenses paid in 2009 for the purchase of any computer technology, equipment, Internet access or related services qualify as education expenses under Qualified Tuition Programs. Only if such technology, equipment or services are to be used by the QTP beneficiary or their family during any of the years the beneficiary is enrolled at an eligible educational institution. Computer software designed for sports, games or hobbies do not qualify unless the software is predominately educational in nature.

**Raymond L. Viktorin, Jr.**  
**Certified Public Accountant**

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