

THE TEEA MESSENGER

VOLUME 1

SPRING 2018

TEEA MESSENGER
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“MILLIE'S TIDBITS”

Hello Everyone,

Winter is here.....brrrrr... has been cold and windy...has it ever been windy! I am ready for spring!!! Had enough cold, time to get the garden prepared time to plant onions and potatoes, spinach and collard greens. The smell and feel of the earth is so relaxing. Just knowing that soon God's hand will be painting all the glorious colors of springtime; the wildflowers and leaves on all the trees is something to look forward to.

The flu has hit Texas hard with schools closing due to so many students ill and businesses with employees out due to illness. The majority of the TEEA Board came home sick from the November Board Meeting at Brownwood. Some had the flu and others with strep throat and others with a virus. It took the majority of us two weeks or more to recover. Wishing all a healthy winter and spring.

The Hurricane Harvey Fund collected over \$2,000.00, enough money to distribute \$205.00 to 13 TEEA Members in District 9. That is \$205.00 to each one of the members. This amount included the refund of the 2017 State Conference fees each had paid. As we continue to collect money, we shall send it out to these 13

members. We have received many thank you notes telling us of their appreciation for the money and the thoughts and prayers from TEEA members.

The 4-H Conference Center in Brownwood updated their Challenge List (their needs list) and presented it to the Board in November. Items are selected from the list and monies collected from Coins for Friendship are given to the 4-H Center at our State Conference each year to help purchase the needed items. This year the Board selected the 18 inch by 6 foot Conference tables for the Lodge. We pledge \$5,000.00 annually, however, we always give the 4-H Center the entire amount collected. If you have not been to the 4-H Center in Brownwood, please make a trip to see what is happening and what our monies have provided for this wonderful Center. Mark will be so glad to show you around!

We have two positions open on the Executive Board for 2018-2020: Second Vice President for Programs and Secretary. Letters declaring candidacy are due to District Directors by March 1, 2018 and to the TEEA President by May 1, 2018. These positions are open to anyone who has served on the TEEA Board of Directors. Please refer to your TEEA Manual to review the duties of each position.

By now you should have been contacted by your County Chair and/or Club President asking for your help in sewing Texas shaped pot-holders for AgriLife to give to all AgriLife Agents attending their National Conference in San Antonio this September.

The holders are so cute you might want to make one for yourself. This is another way to show team spirit and help our Agents.

I know everyone has been working on their Cultural Arts entries. We have so many talented members. Wishing everyone luck for the first place... Everyone enjoys walking through the Cultural Arts room and looking at all the wonderful entries. Good luck!

2018 TEEA State Conference Hosts – District 6, Connie Berry and District 7, Polly Krennek and all members of Districts 6 & 7. *“Abilene, Abilene, Prettiest Town I've Ever Seen”* - Sung by Waylon Jennings....

Abilene is where we are headed September 11-12. *“Westward Ho! Cattle Drives, Tumbleweeds, & Amazing Sunsets”* is our theme for the conference. Western all the way.... wearing those jeans, boots and hats!! Dress comfortably.

Rooms will be available September 10 through the 12. The host hotel is **MCM Elgante Suites** – 4250 Ridgemont Dr. 325-698-1234 - \$119.00 Single/Double \$129 Triple/Quad. Both plus tax. Breakfast is included and a free Manager's reception nightly.

The overflow hotel is the **Courtyard by Marriott** - 4350 Ridgemont Dr. 325-695-9600 - \$119.00 Single / Double + taxes. Breakfast is included. This hotel is just across the parking lot from the MCM Elgante Suites.

Please start making your reservations. Remember, if you make a reservation and

cannot attend, please **CANCEL** your hotel reservation or you will be charged for the room.

The meetings will be held at the Abilene Convention Center – across town. The Abilene Visitors Center will be providing two VIP buses to transport members to and from the convention center. All activities, other than the District dinner parties will be held at the convention center. Registration will be on the September 11 at the convention center. Early Bird workshops are being planned to help fill your time.

The convention center has plenty of space. We will have large rooms for our Early Bird workshops as well as large rooms for our educational workshops. Large rooms for our Cultural Arts, Country Store and Alumnae Silent Auction. We have made sure the traffic for Cultural Arts will be much better this year.

Your District Directors will keep everyone informed regarding happenings.

Stay well and stay safe.
Love to All,

Millie Barrow, TEEA President
TEEA - BIGGER AND BETTER

NYANZA PRICE PRESIDENT - ELECT

Greetings

I have been enthusiastically learning about the presidency. I realize that it takes time and patience. It is difficult to follow in the footsteps of former presidents who blazed the trail of TEEA, but I promise with God's help I will do my best.

My committee and I have been reviewing the TEEA Manual to make sure it is current. It is a tedious task, but we will get it done. If you have any concerns with regards to the manual, please contact me at 903 545-2198 or email me at nyjo1944@gmail.com. We are open to your suggestions.

I am looking forward to serving as President of TEEA with **Love** and **Anticipation**.

KAY JACOB 1ST VP OF LEADERSHIP

Howdy Ladies and Gentlemen,

Wow!! What a crazy fall and winter we have had; a little snow and a lot of cold freezing weather. Here we are in February and it is spring like weather down here.

I hope everyone enjoyed their Fall Training sessions and are looking forward to your Spring Conferences just right around the corner. I am looking forward to getting reports from your District Directors on how much fun they were and learn what kind of education programs you had.

Friendly reminder that the deadline for the 4-H Scholarships is coming soon. I know that there are a lot of deserving seniors out there and I can't wait to hear how many applications we will have.

We are continuing to work on the State Conference in Abilene and I will be looking forward to seeing everyone there.

I am still working on the IRS project and hopefully we will have less problems than we did last year. Remember to file your 990N E-Postcard on May 15!!!! If you have any problems, please let me know and

I will continue to try to get this resolved.

If there is anything I can help anyone with, please feel free to contact me.

HAPPY SPRING!

JAN MEADOR 2nd VP FOR PROGRAMS

Hello TEEA friends,

I hope most of you have escaped the illnesses that have been so bad! I have not, but I am doing so much better now. I hope those of you that have had one of these viruses are either recuperating or have recovered and doing well!

We are getting ready to head to Ft. Worth for the stock show to see our grandkids show their pigs and steers. Ft. Worth is my favorite show; there's just something about Cow Town!

I want to remind our club presidents and association chairs to use the monthly report forms so you are ready to work up that annual report! This will make it so much easier to get it in on time to the District Directors so they can get it sent to me on time. It takes some time for me to get the state annual report worked up and it would be so nice not to have to add last minute revisions or even after our state conference. I would like to be able to present our membership an up to date and accurate report.

Joyce Cavanagh and I presented a training to the District Directors on how to use the online forms with the built in formulas for calculating time and expenses for reporting on meetings and programs. This tool is designed to make it so much easier for reporting and hopefully we can get everyone used to using it for the annual reports.

The program chairs are busy working on their presentations and you will find their article in this issue.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Abilene

this September. The conference facility is very accommodating for our needs! We will have spacious rooms for cultural arts and country store and the breakout rooms for programs offer plenty of seating. I know all of our TEEA members attending our 2018 conference will find it to be comfortable!

*"Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom."
~ Aristotle*

BANKER'S NOTES OLA CULWELL STATE TREASURER

This is the beginning of a new year and we have lots to look forward to. I hope everyone has survived our long, cold winter. A lot of people have been sick but spring is just around the corner.

Thanks for getting your memberships to me on time. Our membership seems to be getting lower each year, but we also are gaining new members. Sadly, we have lost several clubs, but some clubs have reorganized with other clubs in their area to form a club. If your club is no longer active, check around to see if there is another club in your area that you might join. We really appreciate everyone's support.

We were able to help 13 members in a small way who were victims of Hurricane Harvey. These members had paid for the 2017 State Conference but were unable to attend because of the hurricane. A collection was taken at the State Conference and at the Fall Trainings in some counties. We refunded their registration and the funds collected were divided between these members. We sincerely hope these members are on their way to recovery.

Our 2018 State Conference will be in Abilene and look forward to seeing each of you there.

REXINE SCARBOROUGH STATE SECRETARY

What a beginning of the New Year, with winter weather, viruses, and flu everywhere. Hope all of you are well.

As the New Year begins, we all reflect on the past year and things we can do to make this a banner year for TEEA. Members will look for ways they can add more volunteer hours for our organization and community. Some members reevaluate their skills and how to maximize them to help their clubs, districts, and communities.

Members will come up with unique ways to grow the membership, hopefully sharing their ideas with other clubs. Let's all "Make the Best Better."

In all of the reflecting and setting new goals for myself, I remember a statement that a 4-Her stated at the first 4-H Banquet I attended, "If it is to be it is up to me". I try to remember this when asked to work with a committee on a project that I must give all of my energy to working with others to complete the project successfully.

2018 looks like a very exciting year for TEEA. Plans for the State Conference are being finalized. I am excited about going to Abilene and seeing all of you there.

Your President, Millie Barrow, has been spending hours getting information together for the 2019 State Conference. She is finalizing a contract that we feel all will like.

With all working together as the TEEA Team, we can accomplish great works in 2018.

*"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, learning from failure."
~ Colin Powell*

ALUMNAE NEWS GRACE GLAZE, CHAIR

The Alumnae are pleased to award scholarships each year to young adults who are between 19 years old and 24 years old at time of application. The applicant must be a former 4-H member or son / daughter or grandson / granddaughter of a current TEEA member. The applicant must remain a full-time student. The committee awarded seven \$500.00 scholarships in 2017.

Applications are available from County Chairman, District Directors, or from the web teea@tamu.edu pages 6-29 – 6-30. Applications are due April 1, one copy to Alumnae Chair Grace Glaze and one copy to State President Millie Barrow. Addresses are on the applications. Please remind the students to be sure to send complete application with all the required documents.

Please encourage the boys and girls who meet the guidelines to apply for the scholarships.

Funds for the scholarships are raised from the Silent Auction at the State Conference, donations, and memorials. Anyone may contribute to this scholarship fund. If you would like to honor someone with a memorial, please send it to me. Grace Glaze 2835 CR 385 El Campo, TX 77437. If you have any questions, please call or e-mail me (979-543-4168) Email grace-glaze38@yahoo.com.

Alumnae let me hear from you so I may share the updates with the members. Have a wonderful year. Hope to see each of you at the state conference in September.

*"You alone are enough.
You have nothing to prove."
~ Maya Angelou*

BARBARA SANDLIN-SAMPSON DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR

Let me say right now, I have a deeper appreciation for ALL past & present District Directors. Having been past president for club and county, I sort of knew what to expect. But brother was I naive. I know my first year will be hardest and I will get in a groove soon, I hope. But LADIES IT IS WORTH IT! Meeting new friends, learning new things, going different places, training myself to learn and do new and different things, sometimes in a different way; it is all worth it. I have found the cream of the crop when it comes to fellow TEEA members.

Our Fall Training was held November 14 at Vernon, hosted by Montague County. It was a super day. The Western Theme decorations were beautiful, food was delicious and there were many door prizes. Dana Tarter, Region Program Leader - FCH, was our main speaker. She gave us some helpful information on "Working Together for Family & Community" for members and agents to help make TEEA work better.

District 3 will have our Spring Conference on March 20 in Haskell. We have 2 neighboring counties, Haskell and Knox, co-hosting this. Both are small groups and felt more comfortable working together to have a good successful Spring Conference. Our Cultural Arts contest seems to be shaping up to be a good one.

As a side note, please say a prayer for our Immediate Past State President Julia Moseley and her sweet husband, Laurie. He suffered a stroke the day after Christmas and is in a Rehab Center in Weatherford.

DO, RA, MI! CHA, CHA, CHA! ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH MUSIC AND DANCE!

JANET REED EDUCATION CHAIR DISTRICT 4

Learn about the ways that music & dance are being used to add life to our lives. Any age, any gender, civilian or military, we can all benefit from music and dance. You'll find incorporating music and dance can be a wonderful addition to many therapy regimens.

Can't wait to see you all in Abilene!

SAFETY TIPS FOR DAILY USE LINDA ROGERS EDUCATION CHAIR DISTRICT 7

This workshop will cover what it means to be safe in this day and time. Many factors come into play to be safe at all times. Who's watching your back? You are. Be alert where ever you are. What it means to be safe. How do we help each other be safe?

These are just some areas this program will cover. Watch the messenger for more to come.

GAYLE POMYKAL EDUCATION CHAIR DISTRICT 8

Get set for the 2018 Educational Programs in September at State Conference in Abilene which are currently being developed. This year's topics are varied and will be of interest to all ages. As Education Chair of District 8, I am currently in communication with representatives of TxDOT in developing a program on "Driving Texas Rural Roads".

We will be addressing situations such as; hazards on country roads, livestock in roadways, blind corners, hills, and curves, lack of signs or

road markings, farm equipment, loaded trucks and trailers, oversize and wide loads, wildlife and farm animals, and flooding.

The program will give instructions to assist in making quick, safe and logical decisions in unexpected situations.

D I S T R I C T 1

GOLDEN SPREAD QUILTERS

Sylvia Jordan

The Golden Spread Quilters have been busy. In September we nominated Bobbie Hatch to represent our club for the Texas Leadership award. She is active in our club, community and extension work.

The October Sew Studio Tour was great fun. We had six of our members open up their homes and sewing rooms for us to tour. They pointed out special features that make their sewing more efficient and enjoyable. Some were small rooms and some were large rooms built specifically for sewing and quilting. We also had flavored teas, coffee, and cider along with special snacks, soup and desserts at the various homes. We were all full of food, fun, fellowship and ideas. Several of our members gave glowing reports of the State Conference in Horseshoe Bay. Belinda Rivas won first place ribbon with her Star of Wonder Christmas wall hanging.

In November we finished the community project: 40 placemats for Meals-on-Wheels of Canyon and 105 placemats for the Senior Citizen Organization of Hereford.

In December we had our annual Christmas Party. It is always a great way to finish off the year. We had lots of games and prizes and great food. This year we all donated to one large gift basket and Janice Hathaway was the grand prize winner.

**I finally realized it.
People are prisoners
of their phones
that's why they are
called Cell Phones.**



We are continuing our Star Block project. Each month someone volunteers to sew a star block and give a brief history of that block. So far we have had: 54-40 or Fight, Martha Washington Star, Dolly Madison Star, the Ohio Star and the Kim Bracket or Sea Star. Each block is made with red white and blue fabric, and when finished we should have a Quilt-of-Valor for one of our veterans.

In February we will have the deadline for our Black and White Project. The rules are simple: make something using black and white fabric for 90% and 10% of another color. Some are making quilts but others are making smaller projects. February 2-3 we will have our annual two day Sew Special. This year we will be learning about and sewing a fabric art collage.

Come by for the second Tuesday in February to see the results. All are welcome. We have so much going on you are bound to enjoy it.

WILDORADO EE CLUB NEWS

Mavis Green

The Wildorado EE Club held the first meeting of 2018 on January 23. Nine members were present, as well as Chelsey Tillman, Oldham County FCH Agent. 2017 was a very busy year for our group, as we planned and prepared for the one fundraiser of the year. Traditionally, club members made and hand stitched a quilt and donations for tickets for the quilt drawing bringing in most of our revenue, although there was also a noontime meal of homemade cornbread, stew and chili served for a reasonable price. Desserts, tea and coffee were included. Oldham County and other communities really turned out for this annual event.

Alas, those who quilted have done our last stitch!

However, there was an antique quilt of the "Flower Garden" pattern donated for the drawing, which was a blessing, as it brought in quite a few dollars to add to the treasury. The annual Bazaar happened as usual, in November 2017. We are in the black for a while! There will probably be some worthy need pop up in the community that we can help out with a donation.

Two names of those on the club membership roll have passed away recently. Our club is made up of "Golden Oldies" as the saying goes. Most of the young people in Oldham County work outside the home, as well as caring for a young family and are involved in school activities, and in most cases church events also.

Chelsey Tillman encourages many young students of the Vega ISD to form 4-H Clubs, by presenting interesting arts and craft programs, as well as cooking, sewing and learning to judge the style and quality of the work done by these bright, energetic young people!

Surely the EE Clubs of Texas will revive as the students grow into adults and see the worth of Family and Consumer Sciences.

SUNNYHILL EEC NEWS

Kay Bell

Sunnyhill EE Club met October 12. There were 19 members and one guest in attendance. Mary Rice was nominated for the Texas Treasure Award. Mary has been a member for 45 years.

Cindy Sheets, Executive Director of Snack Pak 4 Kids was the guest speaker. When the Snack Pak 4 Kids program began there were 326 Canyon ISD children who received support from them. However this year 790 students benefitted from the program. The two high schools are now referring students for

weekend meals and the number is expected to rise to 1100. Canyon ISD has 10,000 students and Snack Pak 4 Kids in Canyon is no the largest in the state.

The next meeting was November 9 at the Extension Office and there were 14 members and one guest present. The club voted to give \$200.00 to Snack Pak 4 Kids for our year end donation. Members also met to work on ornament sales from 4:00 - 6:00 pm that same day.

This month's program was given by Sidona Rogers, club co-chair. The program titled, "It's better to Eat Twinkies" was a play on words referencing that it is better to visit and share a Twinkie than be sad and alone. Sidona gave each member a Twinkie and reminded them "it's always better to eat a Twinkie". This was a fun, relatable and informative program on some of the issues of being lonely.

Sunnyhill participated in the Randall County EEA Christmas party December 4. Each member brought a covered dish and two dozen cookies. Our club was able to provide 288 cookies to Skyview Nursing Home as a project.

The club met again on December 14 in the Kuhlman Extension Office for our monthly meeting. There were 20 members present. After a brief meeting, Sidona Rogers read some cute Christmas stories followed by Christmas bingo and other holiday games. The meal was catered by Youngbloods Restaurant. The office staff also joined us for dinner as our guests. After dinner, the members played a gift exchange game and the gifts could be "stolen" up to three times. The meeting ended with fun and merriment for each member.

Sunnyhill meets the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Kuhlman

Extension Office Building in Randall County. Anyone who would like to join is invited and encouraged to call 806-433-7899 and we will gladly guide you to the group.

HAPPY HOMES EE CLUB NEWS

Lisa Pipkin

Happy Homes Club has almost doubled in membership. The club had a membership drive in September. We welcomed Carrie Bardwell, Myrna Biggers, Joann Dettmer, Audrey Jarvis, Andrea Navarrete, Marianne Pipkin and Becky Stedje.

Rosetta Barrera presented a TEEA Program on "Hearing Loss" in October.

In November members helped furnish food for the "Christmas Joy Holliday Showcase" presented by Hansford County Extension. Christina Dettmer with the fire department presented an Education program on the use of fire alarms and carbon monoxide alarms. The fire department will help install and furnish the batteries.

Members had a fun and exciting program of Christmas crafts they made. Items were Holliday Wall hangings, a dish made from melted peppermint candies, candy cane container for flowers, cookie recipe in a decorated jar with recipe and a lighted wine glass Christmas scene.

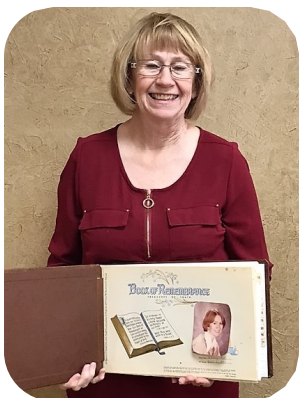
As a club service project for December, Happy Homes prepared 141 special Christmas cards to give to the Veteran's home in Amarillo. We also delivered 101 pair of men's socks and 16 pair of women's socks. We wanted to let the Veterans know how much we appreciate their service and make their Christmas special.



Happy Homes Club members had a wonderful Christmas party. All members shared delicious food, laughter, and family traditions. We played the "Left, Right Reindeer Story" game with Christmas gifts and exchanged Christmas cards. Member Patty Sheppard gave a book review of the endearing "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" by Barbara Robinson.



At the January meeting Marianne Pipkin presented a TEEA program on "Who Do You Think You Are?" She did a wonderful job of passing on information on finding information on your family genealogy. She showed six generations she has worked hard to find with some very interesting stories.



Carrie Bardwell gave an informative TEEA program on "Eating What You Grow". As hostess Carrie served a delicious King Cake which is a New Orleans tradition from France. The cake conceals a plastic baby which represents baby Jesus and the one who finds the baby in their piece is King for the day! June Kelp

was the lucky one that day!



Happy Homes donated money to the Hansford County 4-H concession stand. Supporting our 4-H program is very important to our club and community.

DISTRICT 2

LEVELLAND MOONLIGHTER'S EEC NEWS

Gail Turnipseed

The Moonlighters EE Club met at the Extension Office and a member taught us how to make pumpkins using a roll of toilet paper, material and the toilet paper tube mashed for the stem. A good time was had by all.



Back L-R: Nell Morris, Wynelle Donnell, Crystal Riggins, Debbie Borba, Tina O'Connor, Kaye Daniel
Front L-R: Gail Turnipseed, Sharon Robertson, Lou Willson

Christmas in October

On October 12, the combined EE Clubs of Ropesville and Moonlighters had a joint meeting.

The Hockley County Sheriff Ray Scifries gave an interesting program about the sheriff's office and Kenna Trotter, a local business owner, gave an interesting program on ideas for Christmas.

Members made a Christmas tree using different colors of tape and put it in a frame with her help.



Back L-R: Crystal Riggins, Glenda Gibson - District 2 Director, Polly Coleman, Lera Wilson, Gail Turnipseed, Frances Coats, Carla Ayres
Front L-R: Wynelle Donnell, Genell Ward, Sharon Robertson, Jimmie Dooley, Marsha Blair - County FCH Agent, Nancy Reeves. Not pictured were Debbie Borba and Lou Willson.

A surprise party was given on October 21 for Linda Kalhich's 75th birthday. It was well attended and a good time was had by all. She is a member of the Ropesville Club in Hockley County.



"One of the greatest gifts we receive from dogs is the tenderness they evoke in us."

~ Dean Koontz

DISTRICT 3

PARKER COUNTY NEWS

Kim Smith

November 16, the Country Crossroads TEEA Club toured Sanctified Hope Home for Women, a safe place for ladies exiting the prison system to get back on their feet

spiritually, mentally, and physically. What an opportunity to bless this ministry.



The Country Crossroads EEC held a fundraiser for North Texas Stockings for Soldiers Project. They collected supplies for female soldiers personal care. These items were put into home-made stockings and given out to deployed soldiers to add a smile during the Christmas holiday season. Thank you to all our military for serving our country. God bless y'all!



Representatives L to R; Betty Mullins, Kim Smith and Shirley Riebe.

BOWIE EEA NEWS

Kathy McPeters

Bowie TEEA hosted the annual Fall Bazaar in November that brought in area vendors selling a variety of holiday decorations, gourmet foods and handcrafted items. Members served Neiman Marcus Soup with cornbread for lunch and offered a selection of home baked items with proceeds to benefit Montague County 4-H.

In December, members gathered at the home of president Jo McDonald. A highlight of the party was the Chinese gift exchange and delicious appetizers and desserts.

Everyone was delighted to meet our new AgriLife agent, Melanie Potter. Later that month, Bowie TEEA assisted with a retirement reception for the secretary in the extension office. Carolyn Bell will be missed as she worked more than 37 years in that position and was a great help to TEEA.

Even with extreme cold weather, the new year found Bowie TEEA actively involved with the Montague County Youth Fair. During the multi-day event, members served as judges and provided a hospitality table while the public viewed the food, crafts and clothing entries. At the monthly meeting, educational programs "A Good Night's Rest" and "Hearing Loss" were presented by our AgriLife agent, and delicious refreshments followed.



Christmas Party with Donna Roth, Liz Bower, Sheila Schindler, Traci Prestwood, Mary Lynn Guedry, Robin Bowling, Mary Whatley, Jo McDonald, Sandy Owens, Julie Browning and Melanie Potter

GREENWOOD EE CLUB NEWS

Bobbie Ashley
October - Our 20th Fall Festival. Our very best ever!



Community volunteer—Suzy Willeford



Bobbie Ashley thanks the Sponsors



Jan Morrow and Bobbie Ashley
Also attending, Bobbie's five generations.



At our meeting, Tanya Davis, County FCH Agent and member, presented "Path to the Plate." Created Art was present by Linda Hood. Linda was also nominated for the Texas Treasure Award. Delegates were named to the TEEA Training Day in Vernon. Plans were also made for the Thanksgiving program.

Joyce Enis, vice president, presided over the November meeting. We had our annual Community Thanksgiving lunch with our business meeting after lunch. The budget committee presented the 2018 budget. Plans were made for the Christmas meeting.

Agent Tanya Davis and delegates Dixie Range, Marilyn Collins and Gerry Galloway attended the TEEA

Training Day in Vernon. Dixie was presented a gift for being our District 3 Director for the past two years. For cultural arts, Suzy entered a knitted scarf and hat to "wrap" a wine bottle.

Joyce Enis hosted the Christmas meeting at her home with 13 members attending. A monetary Christmas gift was made to WARM.

We started the New Year with a new family member. Tanya has a new grandson born on our meeting day. We talked and made plans for the new year.



DISTRICT 5

SMITH COUNTY EEA NEWS

Joyce Morrow
Smith EEA

Achievement day celebration of outstanding clubs and members was held on November 7 with best scrapbook awarded to Dixie EE club.



Dixie club members: Connie Troxell, Tammy Meraz, Harriett Lane, Barbara Garrett, Lucille Hobbs

Our woman of the year is Penny Hunter, Tyler Glass club, who was also chosen as Smith EEA Texas Treasure nominee because of her involvement in TEEA and 4-H. She is to be commended for her many hours of volunteer service to TEEA, 4-H and community education and activities.



Woman of year: Penny Hunter
pictured with Patrice Dunagin
CEA/FCH

Lindale EE club was awarded club of the year. They have since decided to close their club and will be greatly missed.



Pictured is Lindale club: L-r
Velma Larue, Diane Stubbs,
Helen Jobe, Sharon Rech,
Patrice Dunagin, Mary
Copeland

WILDCAT EE CLUB NEWS

Elaine Jackson

Wildcat EE Club made a contribution to the Troup Community Food Pantry. The Wildcat EE Club adopted the pantry and have been volunteers with the pantry for several years.



L-R: Beth Byrd, Executive Director; Trey Rousseau, Director; Sherry Smith, Wildcat EE Club President and Elaine Jackson, Wildcat EE Club Treasurer.

"It is wise to direct your anger towards problems, not people; to focus your energies on answers, not excuses."
~ William Arthur Ward

UPSHUR COUNTY EEA NEWS

Gwen Jewett

January 31 - Southern Belles and Glenwood EE Clubs served up chili until it was all gone! – Thanks to our community for supporting this event. When it was all over, the Annual Upshur County 2018 TEEA Chili Luncheon Fundraiser was a success. 4-H helpers, you did a wonderful job and we thank you!

By the time you read this edition of the Messenger, Happy New Year! Merry Christmas! Happy Thanksgiving! will be a memory. The third weekend in October is Yamboree time in Gilmer TX. Our clubs provide support to the Gilmer Area Chamber of Commerce and the Yamboree Association during this weekend festival. At our Joint meeting in November we welcomed new members Kylie Hicks and Christine Thomas to the Glenwood Club. The District 5 Fall Training Meeting was held at St. Teresa's Catholic Church at Union Grove.

Following are some of our members in action.



Joyce Raabe and Commissioner, Mike Spencer spoke at the joint meeting.



Entertainment by Joyce Warren of Southern Belles and Ernie Cox



Members having a good time!



2017 Christmas Tree Team work at the Upshur County Court House

WHITEHOUSE EE CLUB NEWS

Joyce Morrow

Whitehouse EE members met November 14 at the home of Ruth Loper for a program on pollinators by Ron Loper. Members then delivered quilts and blankets made during the year to the Troup United Methodist church women to be delivered to seniors at Christmas.



Pictures with the quilts L-R: Sarah Cooper, Ruth Loper, Juanita Hagan, Joyce Morrow.

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6

KARAN'S KORNER Karan A. Heffelfinger Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

RE: Chicken Soups

National Soup Month continues for the month of January. Many people are using soup to help get over colds and flu.

Soup is a good medicine.

A very popular soup we prepare has a chicken base. The first chicken soup was made in the poor communities in Russia where for centuries poultry was the only affordable meat. Like today, many families used the whole chicken to prepare a three-course traditional meal, starting with chopped liver, followed by a broth-like soup and finishing with the rest of the bird. When I was growing up, and I had a cold, my mother would feed me Chicken Soup, referred to as a penicillin to help treat my cold. Scientists at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha studied the effect of chicken soup on the inflammatory response in vitro.

They found that some components of chicken soup inhibit neutrophil migration, which may have an anti-inflammatory effect leading to a temporary ease from symptoms of illness.

The classic American chicken soup consists of a clear broth, often served with small pieces of chicken or vegetables, or with noodles or dumplings, or grains such as rice and barley.

This first recipe is for **Homemade Chicken Soup.**

Ingredients:

3 lb. whole chicken
4 carrots, halved
4 stalks celery, halved
1 large onion, halved
water to cover
salt and pepper to taste
1 teaspoon chicken bouillon granules (optional)

Preparation:

Place the chicken, carrots, celery and onion in a large soup pot and cover with cold water. Heat and simmer, uncovered, until the chicken meat falls off of the bones, skimming off foam every so often. Take everything out of the pot. Strain the broth. Pick the meat off of the bones and chop the carrots, celery and onion. Season the broth with salt, pepper and chicken bouillon to taste, if desired. Return the chicken, carrots, celery and onion to the pot, stir together, and serve.

I love Homemade **Cream of Chicken Soup** and this is my favorite offering a basic cream of chicken blend.

Ingredients:

4 cups milk
2 Tablespoons all-purpose flour
2 Tablespoons canola oil
2 Tablespoons white sugar
2 cups finely chopped, cooked chicken meat
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

Preparation:

Prepare a white sauce of milk or cream, flour, and oil. Add

chicken. Add sugar, salt, pepper, and garlic powder (may use more or less as desired). Mix well and simmer for 20 minutes over low heat. If soup is not as thick as desired, mix a small amount of cornstarch with a small amount of water and add to soup. Simmer for 10 minutes.

This is a recipe your family and friends will enjoy called **Chicken and Mushroom Soup with Cornbread Dumplings**.

Ingredients:

2 Tablespoons olive oil
2 cups fresh or frozen chopped onions (about 2 medium-large yellow onions)
1 large garlic clove, minced
1 cup thinly sliced celery (include some leaves)
1 cup peeled baby-cut fresh carrots, sliced 1/2 inch thick
Half of an 8 oz. package sliced fresh white mushrooms
2 Tablespoons mushroom paste
1 large whole bay leaf
2 (3-inch) sprigs fresh thyme or 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme, crumbled
1 pound chicken drumettes
2 (14-1/2-ounce) cans chicken broth
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1 cup frozen whole-kernel corn (do not thaw)
Half of an 11-1/2 oz. tube refrigerated cornbread twists
1/3 cup minced parsley

Preparation:

Heat oil in medium-size Dutch oven over moderately high heat for 2 minutes. Add onions, garlic, celery, carrots, mushrooms, duxelles if desired, bay leaf, and thyme and turn to coat with oil. Add chicken, reduce heat to moderate, cover, and "sweat" 15 minutes, stirring now and then. Add broth, salt, pepper, and corn; adjust heat so mixture bubbles gently, cover and cook until flavors marry, in 15 to 20 minutes. Skim off excess fat, if any. Taste for salt and pepper and fine-tune as needed. Uncoil strips of cornbread dough and with scissors, snip crosswise at 1-1/4-inch intervals. Bring soup

to a rapid boil, then drop in pieces of cornbread dough, spacing evenly so they don't touch. Adjust heat so soup bubbles gently, cover, and cook 10 minutes -- no peeking! Remove bay leaf, then mix in parsley, taking care not to damage dumplings. Ladle soup into heated large soup plates and serve.

This recipe is for **Lemony Chicken Soup with Spinach**; but with a slight variation you can prepare Thai-Inspired Chicken Soup: Chicken soup with spinach, lemon juice, leeks, barley, carrots, and herbs is best when made in a pressure cooker. Try the included variation for a Thai version with lemongrass and shrimp.

Ingredients:

1 Tablespoon butter or oil
3-1/2 cups thinly sliced leeks or coarsely chopped onions
4 cups water
3 lb. chicken parts, preferably thighs, skinned
3 large ribs celery, cut into 1 in. slices
4 large carrots, peeled and cut into 1 in. chunks
1/2 cup pearl barley, rinsed

Preparation:

Over medium-high heat, heat the butter in the pressure cooker until it begins to foam. Cook the leeks, stirring frequently, until they soften, about 5 minutes. (If using onions, for a sweeter taste, cook them, covered, over low heat for an additional 5 minutes, stirring from time to time.) Add the water and bring to a boil as you prepare and add the chicken parts, celery, carrots, barley, bay leaves, thyme, and salt. Lock the lid in place. Over high heat, bring to high pressure. Lower the heat to maintain high pressure and cook for 12 minutes. Quick-release the pressure by setting the cooker under cold, running water. Remove the lid, tilting it away from you to allow any excess steam to escape. With a slotted spoon, transfer the chicken parts to a cutting board.

Taste the barley, and if it is still hard (it should be chewy but tender), return to high pressure for 3 minutes more. Spoon off any fat visible on the surface. Remove the bay leaves and discard. Stir in the chicken broth and salt to taste and bring to a boil. Add the spinach and boil the soup over medium heat until the spinach is tender, about 2 minutes for fresh and 5 minutes for frozen. When the chicken is cool enough to handle, remove the meat from the bone and chop or shred it into bite-sized pieces. Return to the cooker. When the chicken is good and hot, turn off the heat and stir in the dill, lemon juice, and salt to taste. Variation: Thai-Inspired Chicken Soup. Substitute one 14 oz. can unsweetened coconut milk for 2 cups of the water. Omit the thyme and cook the soup with the finely chopped bulbs of 2 stalks fresh lemongrass. You may add 4 to 6 oz. small, shelled shrimp at the end and boil over medium heat until they turn pink, 1 to 2 minutes. Substitute cilantro or basil for the dill and use lime juice instead of lemon. Season with Japanese soy sauce (tamari or shoyu) instead of salt. Note: If you cannot find fresh lemongrass, look for Thai Kitchen's lemongrass bottled in a light brine. Do not use dried lemongrass.

If you have questions or would like to share some of your tips for working and living in Pecos County with our readers, please call me at the Pecos County AgriLife Extension Services, 432-336-2541. Make sure you check us out on the web or face book. The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic

information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

DISTRICT 7

DISTRICT 7 EOEA NEWS

Polly Krenak

District 7 Fall Training meeting was held on November 15 in Lampasas. There were 47 members from eight counties in District 7 attending. Everyone had a wonderful day and thank you Lampasas, for all the hard work.



Members enjoying the District 7 Training



Lynda French presents Polly Krenak, District Director with the traveling trophy that District 7 won for having the most attendees at the 2017 State Conference.

Coleman County and Irion County will be the host counties for the Spring Training and Retreat scheduled for March 20, 21 at the 4-H Center in Brownwood. The theme

of the event is "Spring Has Sprung," so put on your apron (homemade) and come and have some fun. They are busy planning some interesting programs and things for members to do. Also, don't forget the District 7 Culture Arts competition, so be sure to get your first and second place winners there.



Coleman members issue an invitation to the Spring Retreat and Business Meeting

District 7 is one of the host districts for the 2018 TEEA State Convention in Abilene. We hope all other districts in the state will be making plans to attend. If you can plan to spend some extra time in Abilene there is a variety of interesting things to see and places to visit. We hope to see you there.

BURNET COUNTY EEA NEWS

Polly Krenak

Burnet County has been extra busy this past few months. In October we always have a luncheon to celebrate TEEA week and at the same time we recognize our "Woman of the Year" recipient. This year Roxanne Dunegan, President of the Redbud Oakalla club, was chosen as the "Woman of the Year" for Burnet County. At this same time there was a special candle lighting ceremony remembering the TEEA members that have passed away. It was very special to remember those wonderful ladies.

The Marble Falls EE Club hosted the annual Christmas party for the county at the AgriLife Auditorium in Burnet. A morning of entertainment by the Hill Country Blenders

was wonderful, a delicious buffet of turkey, dressing, and all the trimmings, a silent auction, and lots of visiting were enjoyed by all attendees. Thank you Marble Falls for a wonderful day.



Marble Falls EE Club



Bethel EE Club



Oatmeal EE Club members



Redbud-Oakalla EE Club



Kelly Tarla, Ag/NR Agent
Linda Wells, FCH Agent
Debbie Trevino, Administrative Assistant

On Monday, February 5, Burnet County had our annual "Lunch and Learn", which was all of the 2017 State Programs. We had 67 people in attendance with several from the surrounding counties of Blanco, Williamson and Lampasas Counties.

The programs presented were "Plan to Control Your Aging Years" presented by Debbie Pearson, RN, "Who do You Think You Are?" presented by JoAnn Meyers, Chair, Burnet County Genealogical Society, "Hearing Loss" presented by Roxanne Dunegan, President, of the Redbud-Oakalla EE Club and "A Good Night's Rest is Best" presented by Roberta Eacott, Vice President, of the Redbud-Oakalla EE Club and Lisa Zinz, President of the Lake Victor EE Club. Karen DeZarn, CEA/FCH of Lampasas County presented the program "Texas Senior Medicare Patrol". Martha Crawford presented her "Chocolate", program and passed out samples of her chocolate goodies. Yum! Fred Oakley, who also presented a program "The Incredible Gourd", brought two tables full of her beautiful painted and decorated gourds.

Burnet County Culture Arts contest was held during the Lunch and Learn. Thanks to all the people who entered. We also appreciate the ladies from Williamson County who were our judges. They did a fantastic job.

A special thanks goes to Lynda French, County Chair, who put the program together and arranged for the presenters. Everyone really enjoyed the day and all the presenters were excellent.

"Show respect to people who don't even deserve it. Not as a reflection of their character, but as a reflection of yours."

~ Dave Willis

Taylor EEA Hosts Education Day

Sherrell Cauldwell

The first Taylor EEA Education Day was held on January 25. Club members and agents from Jones, Coleman and Runnels counties were invited as well as Taylor EEA members and Agent Jane Rowan. Thirty-seven ladies attended the event. Each of the three surrounding counties participated by presenting one of the four main programs offered by the Education Chairmen at the State Conference. Representing Coleman County, Helen Cross presented "Plan to Control Your Aging Years" and Sherrell Cauldwell of Taylor County offered "A Good Night's Rest is Best." After lunch Martha Crawford from Runnels County demonstrated the art of melting chocolate and molding it into interesting and delicious items. "Hearing Loss" was presented by Jones EEA ladies Amie Price and Debbie Hailey. As the meeting concluded, Brenda Camp provided some informative research material and web sites related to the conference program "Who Do You Think You Are?"

Taylor EEA also conducted their Cultural Arts competition on this day. Numerous articles were exhibited, and the entries were judged by Judith Wilson and Dorothy Walner of Abilene. Several blue, red and white certificates were awarded to the members. The holders of the blue and red awards are eligible to participate in the district competition in March at the 4-H Center at Lake Brownwood.



LAMPASAS COUNTY EEA NEWS

Arlene Wingo
Rumley Club's 70th anniversary Rally Day had a birthday theme and included new 2018 officers. They are: Siddonia Umphres, president; Mary Kemper, V.P.; Dorcas Wilson, secretary; Cherryl Luker and Linda Oxentencko, delegates to council. Council officers are, Arlene Wingo, council chair; Lucinda Flores, secretary; Ernestine Garcia, treasurer. Agent and member Karen DeZarn conducted the ceremony. Arlene gave each outgoing officer a handmade apron to show her appreciation for their dedication.



TEEA Installation of Officers:
Rumley Club Secretary - Dorcas Wilson, Rumley Club Vice Pres. - Mary Kemper, Council President - Arlene Wingo, Rumley Club President - Siddonia Umphres and County Extension Agent - Karen DeZarn

Hosting the District's Fall Training on November 15 was the highlight of the year's activities. Everyone worked very hard to make it a success. The theme for the event was "Texas in the Fall" with bar-b-que and fixin's being served. District Director, Polly Krenek, headed up the session with Diana Hodges of Vision Lampasas giving a delightful program about Lampasas.

December 2 found Shirley Beyer, Linda, Arlene and husband T.P. helping judge the San Saba 2017 Pecan Food Show. The three divisions for entrants were: youth, San Saba TEEA members, and non-members from the county.

The club made a year end monetary donation to HIS

KIDS as part of its community service focus. The money helps send children to a summer camp.

Marilyn May helped Mary Kemper host the club's annual Christmas luncheon on December 7. Karen announced that Dr. Patricia Sulak would be the guest speaker on January 25 at the "Living Well Aware: What is Healthy?" seminar. Members were encouraged to attend and help with door prizes.



Rumley Club Holiday Meeting:
Seated L-R Dorcas Wilson, Mary Halverson, Renee Alter, Mary Ann Rhodes, Diana Fisch, Marilyn May Standing: Siddonia Umphres, Mary Kemper, Cherryl Luker, Gloria Morris, Shirley Beyer, Elva Walker, Arlene Wingo, Lucinda Flores and Karen DeZarn

The January 4 program featured Karen giving a New Year slide show presentation on physical fitness entitled TAKE ACTION, Get Active: GO-4-30! She also discussed the upcoming National FCS convention to be held in September. Rumley Club members are helping by making Texas shaped hot-pads for each FCS attendee.

We are looking forward to the district's March 21, 22 Spring Conference/Retreat in Brownwood at the 4-H Center.

COLEMAN COUNTY NEWS GOOD NEIGHBORS CLUB

Dora Newman

Appreciation Luncheon for County Judge and Commissioners

A luncheon was held on Monday, October 23, to honor Coleman County Judge and Commissioners. This was held to show appreciation for

supporting the Texas A&M Agri Life Extension program in the county. Good Neighbor hosted the event in the Fellowship Hall of Coleman First United Methodist Church. Honored were County Judge Billy Bledsoe, Mark Williams Commissioner Precinct 1, Rick Beal Commissioner Precinct 2, Scotty Lawrence Precinct 3, and Alan Davis Precinct 4. Special guests included County Clerk Stacey Mendoza, County Treasurer Jerri Ann Chambers, Assistant County Treasurer Jeana Farrow, Extension Office Manager Nancy Baker, Janet Nelson CEA-FCH and Michael Palmer CEA- Agriculture /Natural Resources. Annual reports were given by President Helen Cross and both agents.

Good Neighbor Club Donates to Coleman Senior Center

At their Friday October 20 meeting, Good Neighbor Club members voted to help the Coleman Senior Citizen Center with a \$500 donation. Pictured here is Dorothy McDonald, Good Neighbor Treasurer presenting the \$500 check to Tina Rankin at the center.



Memorial for Anna Jenkins

Long time Good Neighbor member Anna Jenkins passed away the first of November. The club gave a memorial in her memory and sat together at her funeral November 4.

Runnels County Christmas Party

The Good Neighbor Club was invited to the Runnels County Christmas party on December 5 in Winters.

Pictured are Jean Langford, Sherry Anderson, Glenda Phillips, Cassie Shultz and Helen Cross who attended.



Christmas Party

Good Neighbor members met December 1 for their own annual Christmas party. After exchanging gifts the group traveled to Brownwood where they dined at Cotton Patch.

TEEA Education Day

Good Neighbor Club members participated in TEEA Education Day Thursday, January 25 with Taylor County in Abilene. Runnels and Jones counties were participants also. The four state programs were presented. Helen Cross, representing Coleman County did "Plan to Control Your Aging Years". She did her "Helen Cross Special" modeling her "after Christmas special" elf costume bringing humor to a serious program.

Money Matters: A Financial Workshop

Several Good Neighbor members also attended the Money Matters: A Financial Workshop in Brownwood. Counties hosting this event were Brown, McCullough, Coleman and Eastland. Dr. Jason Johnson, AgriLife Extension Economist presented information sessions on Saving, Spending, and Credit Cards. ID Theft was presented by Detective John Harper, a personal asset and identity theft investigator with the Brown County Sheriff's Office.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."
~ John Quincy Adams

BURNET COUNTY NEWS LAKE VICTOR EE CLUB

Lisa Zinz

Club members visited one of the Lampasas Nursing Homes and handed out hand-made gifts. Afterwards they enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant.



Left to right. Elaine Holbrook, Maggie Feild, Sarah Sultemeir, Lisa Zinz, Jane Parker, Dortha Collins, and Vivian Feild.



BURNET COUNTY REDBUD-OAKALLA NEWS

Roberta Eacott

Club members met on January 15 to construct Texas Potholders for the potholder project for the NEA/FCS National Meeting to be held in San Antonio this fall. Thirty six potholders are near completion.

BURNET COUNTY CHALLENGES YOU!

Consider this a challenge to see which county statewide can complete and deliver the most Texas Potholders by July for this project. Each one will have a label attached stating:

"Custom Made Especially for You by the Texas Extension Education Association"
Let's show the rest of the states how proud we are to be Texans and show our support to the FCH Agents.

JONES COUNTY EEA NEWS

Donna Morgan

The Jones County Extension Education Association (Jones EEA) is represented by dedicated members from the Sunshine Club and the Compere Club. County Agent Kim Miles, (CEA-FCH) serves as Advisor to both clubs and to the EEA Council.

Club members supported and participated in several programs and activities this winter season amidst some changes. Long-time dedicated EEA member, Joana Ager-ton from Compere Club, moved to a community near Dallas to live near family. Joana resigned her Jones EEA Council Chair position in December. Her strong leadership, creativity, and happy attitude will be missed by all who had the good fortune to know her during her service to TEEA. We wish Joana the very best as she and her family transition to their new home.

The Jones EEA Council moves forward with Carla Vest, former Co-Chair, stepping up to the Council Chair position, and Donna Morgan elected Co-Chair. Debbie Hailey is the Council Treasurer with Barbara Shaw serving as Council Secretary. Additionally, three men (husbands of members) have joined the Sunshine Club, and though they do not participate in meetings, they are a tremendous help with EEA events and fundraisers.

After supporting a successful county fair, and organizing two fund-raisers in the September-October timeframe (previously reported), the Jones EEA members continue to stay very active into the winter season. Following are highlights of recent events and upcoming activities.

District Fall Training meeting was held November 15 in Lampasas. The incoming Sunshine Club President,

Kay Spears, with other club members, enjoyed, informative programs and business sessions. Those attending with Kay, included Carla Vest, Debbie Hailey and Amie Price.

The Jones EEA Clubs and Council extend a special thank you to the Jones County Judge and Commissioners for their strong support of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and the Texas Extension Education Association. On December 11, we hosted the 2017 **Annual County Commissioners Luncheon** in Anson. Agent Kim Miles and Steve Estes, CEA-Ag.NR, each presented information and statistics important to county farming, ranching, energy, and related businesses. Club members prepared and served a soup luncheon to approximately 40 county and city officials and employees.

The **Christmas Get-Together Social** was enjoyed on December 15th at the Elegante Restaurant in Abilene. Club members celebrated our 2017 accomplishments during fun fellowship and delicious food. Some of our dear members had illness issues that prevented them from joining us for the festivities.



L - R: Donna Morgan, Carla Vest, Barbara Shaw, Max Shaw, Billie Wise, Judy Deatherage, Kay Spears, Amie Price, Kim Miles, Susan Throckmorton, Bettye Sue Foster, and Debbie Hailey.

Fast forward to the New Year (wow 2018 already) January 25, council members participated in a multi-county **TEEA Education Day and Cultural Arts** display hosted by Taylor County EEA in Abilene. Members who attended the 2017 State Conference in Horseshoe Bay shared their information and presentations

with EEA members from Coleman, Jones, Runnels, and Taylor counties. Jones EEA members Debbie Hailey and Amie Price gave a fun presentation on a serious topic, "Hearing Loss". A delicious chicken spaghetti lunch was prepared and served while we cast a vote for our favorite cultural art entry. Perhaps the most popular presentation was Martha Crawford's chocolate candy making demonstration. Of course she shared scrumptious samples to an attentive audience. Attending from Jones EEA were Debbie Hailey, Kim Miles, Donna Morgan, Amie Price, and Carla Vest.

Club members prepared for the 2018 **"Meet the Candidates Dinner"** held February 8 in Anson. The community had an opportunity to meet and learn more about their candidates running for county, state, and national offices in the next election. Over 150 people are expected for a dinner that will be prepared and served by Jones EEA members. The event is also popular for its Fundraiser Auction of specialty homemade cakes, pies, and other edible delicacies.

Several EEA members plan to attend the upcoming **Town & Country Women's Fair** to be held at the Taylor County Expo Center in Abilene on February 20.

We look forward to participating in the 2018 **District TEEA Spring Conference and Retreat** to be held in Brownwood in March. Hope to see you all there.

We welcome women and men from the Jones County area to join TEEA. The Sunshine Club meets at noon on the third Thursday of each month. The combined Jones EEA Council meets the third Thursday of each month prior to the Sunshine Club meeting. The Compere Club meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month.

OATMEAL EE CLUB NEWS

Polly Krennek

Oatmeal Extension Education Club has had a really busy new year. On Veterans Day, we joined the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary and hosted a potluck dinner for Veterans who live in the community and area.

In December, the Oatmeal Club sponsors the Community Christmas Potluck Dinner. This is for the whole community with good food, singing Christmas Carols and enjoying getting to know our neighbors.

The Oatmeal Club made a cookbook with history and pictures for the community. Since our community is growing with new people who have moved into this area, many want to know more about Oatmeal. The Oatmeal EE Club members submitted recipes and some of the members who grew up in the community provided the history and pictures for Cookbook-history book. It has been a great success, and as we learn more history and find more pictures, we will make an addition to the original book. It has been a great success and many new people are learning the history of our community.

In January, our program for the month was a presentation by Mary Ann Copp, a member from the Marble Falls EE Club, on the Orphan Train. This was a very interesting program and interesting to learn things that happened in our country.

Next month, is Oatmeal history month, and we are looking forward to having several people come and tell us what they remember about Oatmeal.

We are all looking forward to many new and wonderful programs this year. If anyone is interested in any programs you always welcome to come and visit our club or just come and visit Oatmeal.

HONEY BEES ARE BUZZING AGAIN

Margie Wheeler

Our October meeting was given by Jane Rowan, FCH Agent on "Senior Medicare Patrol."

In November, we collected 27 throws for the Texas Cancer Center in Abilene. Books and magazines were also collected for the center. Several members attended the Fall Leadership Training in Lampasas. Members helped with the Lawn Senior Citizens Thanksgiving dinner. Our club also made a monetary donation for the dinner in memory of Cora Miller, Ruby Costlow, Roberta Walsh, and Sue Vaughn who had passed away in 2017. Cora was a current member and the others were longtime members before they were unable to attend. Our program was on 911 information.

In December the Abilene area Pecan Show was held. Margie Wheeler won the adult sweepstakes in the Baked Goods. Our Christmas meeting was busy packing 25 baskets for area residents. Soup and salad was on the lunch menu.

The January meeting was cancelled due to the extremely cold weather. A monetary donation was made to the West Texas Rehab Telethon. As we have done for many years, members attended the Training day and entered cultural arts items.

TAYLOR COUNTY EEA NEWS

Margie Wheeler

Members of the Taylor County EE Clubs had a very enjoyable Christmas party on December 14. Our entertainment was a delightful young lady named, Anaka Grace, granddaughter of Honey Bees member, Mary Voorhis. She played the guitar and sang many songs for us. She and her mom, Debbie Hinton also did "Musical Bingo" for

our group. Gifts were exchanged with a Christmas game also. Lunch was a "Mexican Stackup."



Anaka Grace, her mom, Debbie Hinton, and grandmother, Mary Voorhis.

Next on Taylor County's agenda is the Town & Country Women's Fair in February, held during the Farm & Ranch Show. Hope we see a lot of you there.

DISTRICT 8

LEON COUNTY NEWS

Michaelene Perry

On Tuesday, January 23, the Leon Extension Education Association (LEEA) met for their monthly meeting at the AgriLife Office in Centerville. During the meeting, awards were distributed by Richard Parrish, AgriLife Ag Agent to all LEEA participants and their families and friends, who completed Walk Across Texas for the 8 weeks period ending in December. There were 3 teams—captains were Gail Huffine, Normangee EEC, Nyanza Price, Oakwood EEC and JoFran Edwards, AgriLife Office. There were 8 teammates per team. The total mileage walked for all was 5777.56 miles. That is enough miles to walk from Orange to El Paso and back 3 times plus an additional 779.58 miles. The average miles per walker were 240.73. That is a lot of walking. What a way to stay healthy and have fun! Each participant was awarded a certificate, cooling towel and a medal (bronze-3rd place, silver-2nd place and gold-1st

place).

Congratulations to all who participated. Accepting the awards at this LEEA meeting were Jackie Morrow, Oakwood EE, Richard Parrish, AgriLife Office, Nyanza Price, Oakwood EE, Gail Huffine, Normangee EE, J.P. Borah, Normangee EE. Not pictured are JoFran Edwards, AgriLife Office, Mary Greer, Normangee EE and Lavern Manning, Oakwood EE. Other participants were friends or family of AgriLife or LEEA members.



MORTON VALLEY EE CLUB NEWS

Millie Barrow

The Morton Valley EE Club continued with the tradition of completing a quilt and donating it to the Abilene West TEXAS Rehab Center. Morton Valley has donated a quilt every year since the Quilt Rehab Auction began. Representing Morton Valley are left to right, Cyndee Groce, Millie Barrow, Janis Keith, Clara Mathews, and Cheri Clark.



"Quotations help us remember the simple yet profound truths that give life perspective and meaning. When it comes to life's most important lessons, we can all use gentle reminders."

~ Chriswell Freeman

BELL COUNTY EEA NEWS

Polly Elizondo

Bell Extension Education Association held its annual Educational Programs and Cultural Arts meeting on January 29 at the Ocker Brethren Church in Zabcikville. Opening exercises were conducted by Tanglefoot EE Club. Welcome, introduction of guests and new members were presented by Gayle Pomykal, Bell EEA Chairman. Gayle also gave the BEEA update information. Roll call was handled by Laurie Veatch, county secretary.

The four State mandated programs were presented to the members and attendees: "A Good Night's Rest is Best," Gayle Pomykal; "Hearing Loss," Laurie Veatch; "The Blueprint to Age Your Way," Vernice Black; "Who do You Think You Are?," Nancy Urbantke.

Following the educational programs the Cultural Arts Awards were presented. Shown in the picture below are Jackie McLaughlin, left, Bell AgriLife Extension Agent and Rosemary Chudej, member of the Leedale Club and winner of several first awards, including white and color photography, recycled items and others.



The Style Show committee met to continue their plans for the annual Style Show and Luncheon to be held on March 17.

"If you don't stick to your values when they're being tested, they're not values: they're hobbies."

~ Jon Stewart

HAMILTON COUNTY IS ALWAYS ON THE GO

Linda Pledger

Temperatures at "2", "10" and "20" degrees has not kept Hamilton County TEEA behind closed doors.

After the annual Holiday Market last fall, where proceeds go toward scholarships for high school students who are graduating, Hamilton TEEA forged right ahead with plans for Spring Fling which will be March 12 at St. John's Lutheran Church on Hwy 22 in Hamilton. Spring Fling is an annual all-day event for the county and surrounding counties featuring speakers, vendors, a silent auction and our famous salad luncheon. All are welcome.



Activities with the 4-H Youth Fair included judging and providing food for the Home Economics divisions of the event. It kept us busy during some of the coldest days this winter.

We were called on to provide deserts for a fund raiser to make improvements on the pavilion at Fair Park in Hamilton. This is where a lot of TEEA events occur as well as 4-H shows.

State programs as well as local speakers provide our community with information in various areas of life during

our club's regular meetings. Fulfilling our state mission that says to strengthen and enrich families through educational programs and community service.

NOONTIME EE CLUB NEWS

Charlotte Watson

Mary Johnson was recognized at the recent Williamson County Awards Luncheon as the Outstanding Club Member for Noontime EE Club. Mary plays a very active role throughout the year as she volunteers over and over again with many club and county events. She can always be counted on to go above and beyond to help Noontime EE Club be such an active and outstanding club. You deserve the honor, Mary. We're so proud of you!!!



NOONTIME EE CLUB WINS PUBLICITY AWARD

Publicity is an ongoing endeavor if a club wants the community to know the many ways it reaches out locally to benefit children and families. At the recent Williamson County Awards Program, Noontime won the Publicity Award for 2017. Along with the certificate received, the club also received a check for \$15 which the club will put back into its many community projects. Pictured are club

members, L to R, Mary Lindsey, Dedie Johnson, Mary Johnson, and Peggy Blair, Club President. Also attending were husbands, Fred Johnson and Wayne Blair.



NOONTIME DONATES STUFFED ANIMALS

Noontime recently donated twenty four stuffed animals to the Victims Assistance Department of the Georgetown Police Department. Victims Assistance officers keep stuffed animals in their vehicles all the time. When they get an emergency call, wreck or domestic disturbance, they have a stuffed animal they can give to a child who might be caught up in the situation.



In the photo, L to R, are Noontime members, (front) Dedie Johnson, Pat Kellett, Peggy Blair, (back) Mary Lindsey, Mary Johnson, Nelda McCain.

NOONTIME TOURS DOWNTOWN SQUARE

Noontime EE Club members pose with Three-Legged Willie, before the three ladies joined other Williamson County EE Club members in touring the Georgetown Square. Willie was a beloved Texas patriot, ranger, lawyer, judge, newspaper editor, and Williamson County's namesake. He was known affectionately as Three-legged Willie due to the wooden leg he used following an illness when he was 15.

His right leg drew up at the knee and could not support him. Thereafter, he wore a wooden leg, leaving his useless foot extended behind him. In addition they also toured the Williamson County Courthouse. In the afternoon, Nelda McCain, another Noon-time member, joined the group to tour the Rentsch Brewery. It was a fun day touring local places of interest.



L-R - Peggy Blair, Charlotte Watson, Three-Legged Willie, and Mary Johnson.

NOONTIME HEARS HOUSING OPTIONS FOR SENIORS



Pictured is Virginia Lazenby, a Certified Senior Housing Professional. She recently gave an excellent, informative program for the Noontime EE Club on preparing to downsize as we age. She encouraged members to not wait to think about downsizing. She also shared information about setting up for an estate sale. She was very knowledgeable about housing options - independent living, assisted living, and nursing homes in the Georgetown area. Although we talked about issues we don't really want to face, she helped us think through the idea of aging and senior housing.

"Far too many people are looking for the right person, instead of trying to be the right person."
~ Gloria Steinem

"Use what talents you possess. The woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best."
~ Henry Van Dyke

JEWETT EE CLUB NEWS

Billie Henderson Volunteer Organization were invited to lunch & presented with a monetary donation from the Jewett EE Club January 8 at the Jewett Civic Center Community Room. Those who attended gave a synopsis of their services and activities.



Celia Bell, V.P., presenter, Donna Warren, President, BJ Henderson, accepting for East Lake Limestone Fire Dept., Carol Ball, Leon ISD Food Bank, Kristy Vandergriff -Chamber of Commerce, Wes Collins & Sarah Thomas for Jewett EMS. The Jewett Fire Department also received a donation.

Our club provides 4-H Scholarships and activities for students, crafts and educational programs for families in the community. Come join us at 10 a.m. the second Monday of each month in the Jewett Civic Center Community Room for lunch and an activity or entertainment. Contact B. J. Henderson, [903-626-6671](tel:903-626-6671) if you would like to attend a meeting or if you are interested in being involved and need more information, contact Donna Warren, [713-898-6512](tel:713-898-6512). There are brochures in the Jewett Civic Center Office.

The February 12 meeting of the Jewett EE Club will have a Valentine theme meeting/ lunch with members inviting spouses and/or guests for a covered dish luncheon and entertainment by Celia Bell's husband singing and playing guitar.



MORTON VALLEY EE CLUB NEWS

Millie Barrow Morton Valley EE Clubs latest Lunch and Learn drew fifty people from Eastland and the surrounding towns. James, owner of a local, popular "The Carousel by James" was the guest speaker. He spoke on holiday preparations and taught the crowd how to make beautiful bows. The food was prepared and served by members of the club. This is one of the club's community projects.

LEON COUNTY EEA NEWS

Michaelene Perry As the old year passes and we welcome in the new one, Leon Extension Education Association (EEA) looks back on the many accomplishments of the last quarter of 2017:

On September 30 Leon EEA Fall Sale was held for their annual fundraiser at the Leon County Expo Center, Buffalo, TX. This project helps to raise income for community activities needed plus 4-H scholarships for students in our county. With over 55 vendors present, the community also benefited by purchasing items from area vendors. Concession stand sales help support EE activities in the community of Buffalo, Jewett, Leona-Centerville, Normangee and Oakwood. It was very successful and we are able to increase the number and/or amount of scholarships in Leon County. Hostesses below.



Leon EEA dedicated much time with the county officials and volunteers to plan the annual Leon County Health Fair. On October 3, we again were participants as volunteers, workers, and fundraisers for the association. This worthwhile event helps the school children with many educational activities. Providing flu shots to the community and educational information to all living or visiting our area are other parts of the fair. There was an increase in vendor booths at this year's event.



Buffalo EE members (L-R) Virginia Crabb, Donna Barrilleaux, Clara Dillard and Marilyn Brown



Jewett EE members Geri Cox and Peggy Bloomer



Leona-Centerville EE members ; (L-R) Lora Nichols, Pam Groba, Clara Jones and Helen Torrance



Normangee EE members- Concession Stand workers (L-R) Rhonda Exley, J.P. Borah, Bill Exley, Shirley Kelton



Oakwood EE (L-R) Nyanza Price, Judy Thomason and Barbara Kloesel

Leon EEA dedicated much time with the county officials and volunteers to plan the annual Leon County Health Fair. On October 3, we again were participants as volunteers, workers, and fundraisers for the association. This worthwhile event helps the school children with many educational activities. Providing flu shots to the community and educational information to all living or visiting our area are other parts of the fair. There was an increase in the number of vendor booths at this year's event.



Oakwood EE members who donate their time (L-R)-Shirley Teinert, Judy Thomason, Nyanza Price, Lavern Manning, Marti Hanson, Barbara Kloesel

As part of TEEA District 8 Leon EEA participated in the Leadership Training at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton on November 14. District Director, Clara Jones presided over this one day gathering to help all EEA members learn or review the workings of TEEA in our state. Key elements to this year's meeting were the importance of recording all volunteer hours/expenses for EEA activities, Certified Volunteer Units logbook (CVU's), building membership in our EE Clubs and a Questions

and Answers panel who answered queries from the attendees and resolved several misunderstandings about the activities and functions of TEEA. Thanks to that meeting, Leon EEA developed an expansion committee to recruit new members and implementation of an incentive program was put into effect in December. Time will tell how this program idea works.



Q & A panel (L-R) Nyanza Price, Jackie McLaughlin, J.P. Borah, Mamie Bell and Laurie Veatch

The last two activities closed out the year. **First**, on November 29, Leon EEA held a "Thank You" Breakfast for Leon County Commissioners' Court officials-Judge Byron Ryder, Joey Sullivan-Pct 1, David Ferguson-Pct 2, Dean Stafford-Pct 3, David Grimes-Pct 4 and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Staff of JoFran Edwards, Richard Parrish and Laura Petty. During this occasion Clara Jones presented Judge Ryder with the "Big Check" to show savings to Leon County for the programs, activities and work provided by Leon EEA members. This savings was \$232,831.08 in equivalent \$/hours. Yes, Leon EEA has been very busy from October 1-September 30.



"Thank You" Breakfast attendees (L-R) Leon EEA Officials, (L) JoFran Edwards AgriLife Office, Judge Byron Ryder, David Ferguson, Pct #2 and Dr. Jeff Ripley, AgriLife Extension/Executive Director-County Operations, Texas A&M, College Station, TX, on (R) Dean Stafford, Pct #3, Joey Sullivan, Pct #1, Laura Petty and Richard Parrish, AgriLife Office

Second, on December 5, the annual Leon EEA Christmas Party was held for members and guests. The AgriLife Staff and some of the Leon County officials were able to attend. Most importantly the members provide Christmas gifts to children for the Child Protective Services. This worthy cause is what Christmas is all about-love and giving to those in need.



Clara Jones (R) presented appreciation gifts to AgriLife staff JoFran Edwards (L) and Richard Parrish (Center)



Entertainment group from the Normangee area—"Carl Brown & Friends", (L-R) Carl Brown, Bass, Randy Schimaro, Guitar, Jim Jones, Dulcimer & Piano, and Litha Tidbits, Keyboard

As you can tell by the above information, Leon EEA members from Buffalo, Jewett, Leona-Centerville, Normangee and Oakwood Clubs continue to be active in the community and share their time and talent to benefit all in the area. We welcome anyone interested in more information about our clubs and how to become one of those who care about Leon County. Just call the AgriLife Office at 903-536-2351. They will give you pertinent information about the meeting dates, times and location for a club near you.

SUCCESSFUL DAY TRIP FOR WILLIAMSON COUNTY EEA

Charlotte Watson

Fourteen Williamson County EE Club members plus four guests and four children participated in the fall walking tour of the beautiful Georgetown Square. The tour that began at the Williamson County Museum, was narrated by a very knowledgeable museum docent. After lunch, the group met at the historic Williamson County Courthouse and another museum docent gave an excellent tour, complete with many historical facts and stories. After the courthouse tour, eight EE members and seven guests toured the Rensch Brewery and stayed for a short social time. This group included Cornelia Ferrell, Rose Taylor, Florence Frost, Joyce Johnson, Diane Hawken, Diane Watts, Nelda McCain and Lin Brinkman.



L to R, Jane Williamson, Rose Taylor, Florence Frost, Peggy Blair, Joyce Johnson, Marlene Clower, Charlotte Watson and Cornelia Ferrell



L to R, Reva Dowell, Pat Gregoire and her husband Larry, Joyce Purtle, Mary Johnson, Jennifer Meixsell and her daughter and four children

NOONTIME PARTNERS WITH PROJECT CARE CASE

Charlotte Watson

Noontime EE Club members stand behind the suitcase they filled to overflowing with items specifically for a six-year old girl in foster care. Oftentimes when children are picked up from a non-healthy family situation, they arrive at their foster home with their few personal belongings in a garbage bag. A Williamson County resident, a foster child herself, heads a nonprofit to provide ownership and dignity to foster kids. Project Care Case provides each child a wheeled suitcase, a minimum of two changes of new clothing, pajamas, socks, undergarments, personal hygiene items, a teddy bear, a pillow and blanket and a Bible in age-appropriate language. Over the past six years, Project Care Case has put together more than 1,200 Care Cases for foster children in agencies in Central Texas. This was the first time Noontime had partnered to fill a suitcase. Club members felt good about this new way to help children.



NOONTIME MEMBERS HELP JUDGE 4-H FOOD SHOW

The Williamson County Food Show and Food Challenge is a BIG deal each year. Noontime EE Club members, Charlotte Watson and Mary Johnson, had fun judging the Senior Division of the Food Show and Food Challenge plus the Clover Kids in the Food Challenge. When they asked one of the Clover Kids why he added a particular ingredient to his team's dish, he responded, "well, it was one of the extra ingredients we could use if we wanted to. I thought it would make it taste

good." Shown on the left in the picture is Rachel Fowler, an outstanding Senior 4-H'er. She was very knowledgeable about nutrition, and she very capably answered all of the judges questions. It was a fun evening.



SOCK-IT-TO-ME-NANCY

Noontime recently donated 60+ pairs of socks to the local non-profit, Sock-it-to-Me-Nancy. The lady who began this non-profit named it for her mother, Nancy, who lived at a nursing home in Georgetown. When they did her wash, her socks hardly ever came back as a pair. Through this ministry, the founder and friends go into a couple of area nursing homes and give socks to the residents. Noontime member Charlotte Watson delivered socks with the group a few months ago. Some of the socks were colorful. Others were just utilitarian. However, the response was the same. The residents could not believe someone was coming into the nursing home and giving them something for nothing. One lady was especially thankful and excited as she began immediately pulling off the socks she was wearing and putting on (with some help) her new colorful knee high socks. It was a fun project and the delivery was so fulfilling.



NOONTIME'S ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

Shopper extraordinaire and guest Jessie Hebert peruses the many wonderful items displayed at Noontime's Annual Silent Auction. It's always a fun December event that includes the most delicious lunch with foods prepared by the Noontime EE Club members. Club members invite other EE Clubs' members and other area friends. They also provide all the auction items, most of which are handmade. The guests fill out the bid sheets, watching to see if someone outbids them on an item they really want. All of the proceeds go towards Noontime's community projects during the following year. Fifty five attended the 2017 event, and Noontime netted around \$700!!! What a fun and exciting holiday event!



guests were the past State President, Cathy Hanzik, of Needville along with her Mother, Mrs. Strieder. Educational workshops provided delegates with training for educational programs for its members and the community the coming year.

Cultural arts exhibits were entered by members from across the state where Donna Van Horn of Damon exhibited her crocheted white baby christening gown which judges awarded a first place in its respective category. Other recognition, in addition to business which included amendments to the State Bylaws, recognized volunteer service hours. Among recipients receiving certified volunteer hours was Erna Thielemann of Richmond for 2000 volunteer hours.

Annually members provide the Texas 4-H Center at Brownwood with a donation of \$5,000. in support of educational opportunities for 4-H members from across the state of Texas.



PORT NECHES EE CLUB - JEFFERSON COUNTY

Claudine Hare

For the seventeenth year, Port Neches E.E. Club held their annual Christmas Party, hosting clients (with their parents) from Fedder's Center (for physically &/or mentally challenged adults). Mothers' Day Out children entertained, singing Christmas songs. To the delight of the Fedder's clients, each one got to have pictures taken at the photo booth, and they were able to take their pictures with them when leaving. Katherine Richards, club treasurer, presented from our club, checks to Fedder's Center, the church (in appreciation of our club's having a regular meeting place) and each client was

DISTRICT 9

DELEGATES ATTEND STATE EEA CONFERENCE

Erna Thielemann Fort Bend Extension Education Association delegates attended the annual State EEA Conference held at Horseshoe Bay Resort in September. Attendance of 417 with 216 delegates from across Texas included Erna Thielemann, Rose Jaynes and Bernice Meyer of Fort Bend County. Also attending as

given a Walmart gift card, all totaling over \$600.00. Lunch was provided by the club and members with a total of 38 in attendance. Then it was "Merry Christmas to All" until next year.



Port Neches Club Members



Fedder's Center Clients

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ELGIN EE CLUB NEWS

Judith Lundgren

On October 18, Hillary Long, County Extension Agent, from the Bastrop Family and Consumer Services gave our program on the Bastrop Cares Project; backpack programs to help students in need and for children at risk for food in the county. Hillary encouraged club members to become more involved in the community and 4-H activities.

November 15, Elgin Club member Judy Lundgren presented a craft day on making Tea Lights using mini statin rose buds and washi tape of all colors. She also made examples for club members to follow the craft. Every member was quick to learn and decorated 2 Tea Lights to take home. Gifts for Blue Santa were collected. We made plans for our monthly programs for 2018. Every club

member brought something different made with pumpkin to share. It was all delicious.

On December 7 all Elgin Club members attended our Christmas party luncheon with a card and gift exchange at the Local Goods Cafe in Elgin.

BLANCO COUNTY EEA NEWS

By Shelley Levitt

The Round Mountain EEA Club closed out 2017 with its Christmas party at the home of Peggy and Jim Aldridge. Peggy's home was beautifully decorated for Christmas with Christmas stockings and cowboy boots hanging from the railing of the 2nd level. Wonderful Christmas decorations that had been handed down through the generations adorned the tables where we enjoyed the numerous salads brought by club members. Frankie Hohenberger played piano, and she, Jim, and Joy lead us all in singing Christmas carols. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

In November, the Club held its 3rd Annual 1st Day of Deer Season Bake Sale at the Harvest House Processing Plant, and boy did we have fun! This is always a fun and profitable sale. Hunters began to arrive a little after 9 a.m. The second hunter to arrive had bagged a 10 point buck and he was walking on air. He gave us a \$100 bill for a delicious apple pie and a pan of brownies. Not soon after a man and his young boy arrived. The young boy had bagged his first buck and his Dad let him have whatever he wanted and of course he wanted brownies also. By 1:00 we were sold out and had made some pretty good money for 4-H scholarships for Blanco County 4-H students.

In December a member of our club, Tommy Levitt and the Texas Ramp Project members from Blanco County built a short ramp for another Round Mountain EEA member, Joycelyn Carter. For many years Joycelyn made ornaments to be sold at the Blanco County Courthouse for the Lights Spectacular during the Christmas Season, including many A&M ornaments. When she and Tommy became friends, she would make "special UT" ornaments for him even if he was "a Tea Sip"; her favorite UT fan, she would say. Joycelyn is also a founding member of our club.



In January we volunteered our time to help with the Blanco County Youth Exhibit Hall. Our members helped with registration, helped judges place projects and food items on tables for judging, and basically get ready for judging.

We have some very talented 4-H cooks and artists in our county, and our club always enjoys helping with this event and watching as our youth grow their talents from year to year.

In 2018, our Club is celebrating its 75th anniversary! I will have more about our history in the next article of the Messenger.

MCDADE EE CLUB NEWS

Kathi Gremillion

On December 13, the McDade EE Club held their annual Christmas Party. Our special guest was Violet Alexander, District 10 EE Director. We had a fun gift exchange based on the Twelve Days of Christmas, played some fun games with prizes and had a delicious pot luck meal. Loretta Dube was awarded our "McDade Christmas Star" award for her work in our community and club. Congrats to Loretta!



On January 4, the McDade EE Club hosted a party for the Elgin Nursing Home residents with bingo games, prizes and refreshments. At our January meeting, County Extension Agent, 4-H and Youth Development April Kuck gave a presentation on the history of 4-H.

The McDade EE Club is looking forward to participating in the Bastrop EE Association annual Achievement Day at Faith Lutheran Church fellowship hall in McDade on February 5.

Several of our club members are making plans to attend the District 10 Spring Meeting in Seguin in March.

GILLESPIE EEA NEWS

Helen Usener

Several members of the Pilot Knob EE Club attended the Llano EEA Ham and Bean Lunch on October 4. They enjoyed the great food, visiting with friends, and purchasing items at the Country Store.

On October 13, members enjoyed the program, "Navigating Pinterest", presented by Blanco County FCS Agent. On October 27, eight members, Harriet Wilson, Cathie Kuhl, Corine Klose, Sheila Edwards, Alicia Frantzen, Ilene Crenwelge, Emmie Usener, and Vicki Rust along with FCS Agent Shea Nebgen enjoyed the Fall Tour to Bandara.



October 30, members judged the Gillespie County 4-H Food Challenge and Food Show.

On November 10, member Vicki Rust presented the program, "Talking with Healthcare Professionals". Members were pleased to hear the helpful information.



December 1, Gillespie EEA members gathered for their annual Christmas Party, enjoying the wonderful food prepared by members, sharing Christmas Readings, wrapping gifts purchased for the children of the two Hill Country Needs Council Families and organizing and delivering items members donated for the families.



Annabel Wilkinson & Judy Eilers 2018 officers treasurer, Alicia Frantzen; secretary, Corine Klose; vice chairman, Sharon Kott; and chairman, Helen Usener were installed by FCS Agent Shea Nebgen. The officers serve both Gillespie EEA and the Pilot Knob EE Club.



Helen Usener presented the program, "Genealogy-Who Do You Think You Are", at the January 19, meeting.



Gillespie EEA would like to invite other EE members to attend the annual Gillespie EEA Spring Scholarship Luncheon to be held on Thursday, April 5, serving from 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Holy Ghost Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall located at the corner of East San Antonio St. and South Adams St. in Fredericksburg.

CALDWELL COUNTY EEA NEWS

Kathy McCown

Since our members are no longer able to do bi-monthly food distribution due to new regulations, our food distribution monies had to be distributed according to the charter bylaws between Lockhart and Luling food pantries that were in existence when the program began in 1995. Assessing monies according to the number of clients, Lockhart received \$2,271.17 and Luling received \$500. All Caldwell County EE Clubs are looking at ways they may be able to help these two entities in the future.

Betty Gardner, the oldest member in Luling at 91, cracked her pelvis recently. Prayers and good wishes to our Miss Betty.

In continuing our distribution of books to young children in our county Literacy chair Sandra Simi, is looking at various options that would be affordable so that we can continue this community project.

Board members voted and selected Madeline Brown and Hilda Wilt as delegates to the District 10 Spring Conference this March in Seguin. Many members are looking forward to this meeting and planning to attend.

Joel Webb, county historian, brought two completed scrapbooks to the January board meeting for members to see. These will go to the Luling Library and Archives which has so generously allowed us to store our histories there so that they are available to the community for local research.

A "Palette For All Seasons" set the spirit as each table was decorated by local club members to Celebrate the Holiday Seasons with a holiday theme representing a month of the year.



Michele Daniels, WEEA Chair welcomed the attendees, thanked the Expansion Committee for their efforts in planning the evening and introduced the new FCH Agent Hannah Krebs who spoke briefly. A delicious roast beef dinner was served.



Betty Jo Rudloff and Judith Finke presented the program "Regenerate Season's Ornamentation with Interchangeable Adornment." Using three basic table covers and one principal Terrarium, ten tables capes were depicted by adding scarves or placemats and switching the items in the Terrarium. The program was created by Jennifer Hermann, owner of a local furniture company lending the linens and items for the program.

Adam Greer, Craig and Emily Connor provided the musical entertainment.

DISTRICT
11

WASHINGTON EEA NEWS

Judith Finke

The Washington Extension Education Association celebrated its Holiday Workshop at the Blinn College Ballroom Thursday evening, January 25 with 52 attending.

"Seek out the good in the bad, the happy in your sad, the gain in your pain, what makes you grateful, not hateful."

~ Karen Salmansohn

LAVACA COUNTY, MORAVIA EEA NEWS

Gina Pavlu

The Lavaca County, Moravia Extension Education Association held its monthly meeting on December 14 along with the annual Christmas Party. To celebrate the season of giving, non-perishable food items were collected and donated to the Manna Food Pantry. Pictured are the local officers from left to right, Gina Pavlu, Nola Bohuslav, Connie Burton, and Sophie Cernik.



WASHINGTON EEA NEWS

Judith Finke

The Wm Penn Extension Education Club provided delicious desserts for the County Sheriff's Office Thanksgiving Dinner.



Front: Kathleen Flick and Louise Newman Back: Edna Schroeder, Sharon Eccleston, Sheriff Otto Hanak, Gail Pinto and JoAnn Buck.

"We forget that the single most important thing we must do to walk a worthy and higher path is to take good care of ourselves. If we want to serve, and love others, and have a powerful impact, we must love and nurture ourselves."
~ Nancy Koehn

AUSTIN COUNTY NEWS

Michelle Allen

In February, the Extension Education Association of Austin County sponsored a soup, sandwich, and dessert meal in honor of the Austin County Commissioners Court and many of its community partners. The theme for this year's event was "EEA – Reaching the Heart of the Community." This is an annually sponsored event which recognizes the hard work and efforts of many of our community partnerships. The event was coordinated by the Expansion Committee, which was chaired by Mary Smentek of North Austin County EEA. Committee members include Annette Balke, Marie George, Laura McCarthy, Gloria Havemann and Pam O'Brian. This awesome opportunity gave EEA members the chance to visit one on one with the Court in order to share organizational highlights and the benefits of Extension Education in Austin County. In addition, the group recognized collaborative efforts and the long-standing relationship between EEA and the Austin County Fair Association.



Front Row L - R: Joan Buenger, JoAnn Reichle, Jessie Kokemor, Debra Kollman
Back Row L - R: Precinct 4 Commissioner Doug King, Precinct 3 Commissioner Randy Reichardt, Austin County Judge Tim Lapham, Precinct 1 Commissioner Mark Lamp, Precinct 2 Commissioner Bobby Rinn

In addition, a host of EEA members participated in the 2018 Cultural Arts Contest. The event was coordinated by

the Cultural Arts Committee, which was co-chaired by Joan Buenger of Bleiberville EEA and Debra Kollmann of West End EEA. Committee members include – Malinda Schramm, Karen Landrum, and Gloria Havemann. The Cultural Arts Contest gives members an opportunity to exhibit knowledge and skills which express individualism and creativity. Members who placed 1st and 2nd in their individual category advancing to the District Competition in Victoria this spring are: Category 3 - Craft Painting - Joan Buenger, Debra Kollman; Category 4 - Decorated Garments - Jesse Kokemor; Category 5 - Fabric Creations - Doris Glenewinkel, Bonnie Schulz; Category 6 - Fiber Arts - Pat Byas; Category 7 - Garments and Accessories – Handmade - Bonnie Schulz, Doris Glenewinkel; Category 8 - Hand-Stitchery - Jessie Kokemor, Doris Glenewinkel; Category 10 - Holiday Decorations - Doris Glenewinkel, Joan Buenger; Category 11 – Jewelry - Doris Glenewinkel; Category 12 - Painting and Drawing - Debra Kollman; Category 13 – Paper - Bonnie Schulz, Joan Buenger; Category 14 - Traditional Scrapbook - Joan Buenger, Bonnie Schulz; Category 15 - Digitally Produced Scrapbooks - Bonnie Schulz; Category 16 - Photo Black/White - Joan Buenger, Bonnie Schulz; Category 17 - Photography – Photo Paper – color - Doris Glenewinkel, Bonnie Schulz; Category 18 - Photography-Any Other Medium - Bonnie Schulz; Category 19 - Quilts smaller than 50x70 –hand quilted - Bonnie Schulz; Category 20 - Quilts larger than 50x70 –hand quilted - Bonnie Schulz; Category 21 - Quilts smaller than 50x70 –machine quilted - Debra Kollman, Bonnie Schulz; Category 22 - Quilts larger than 50x70 – machine quilted - Debra Kollman, Bonnie Schulz; Category

23 - Quilts Twin size or larger – hand or machine quilted - Bonnie Schulz; Category 24 - Recycled Items - Bonnie Schulz, Joan Buenger; Category 25 - Wall Hangings - Bonnie Schulz, Betty Thiel; Category 26 – Miscellaneous - Bonnie Schulz.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. If you would like to learn more on how you can get involved with EEA in Austin County, please contact the County Extension Office for more details.

DISTRICT 12

KLEBERG COUNTY EEA NEWS

Dee Davis

The members of KEEA Kingsville have been busy making plans for the judges luncheon at the Kleberg/Kenedy County Livestock Show.

They prepare and serve lunch as a fundraiser. Funds are used for the scholarship presented to a 4-H member.

Plans were also made for the annual Award's Luncheon. It will be held on February 14 at the AgriLife building on East Yoakum. County officials are also invited to attend. It is an opportunity for all to become better acquainted.

The Spring Conference for District 12 will be in Edinburg on March 22. All members are encouraged to attend. It is a fun and educational day. The members of Hidalgo County do an awesome job as hosts.

Kay Jacob, KEEA president gave a report on the 2017 State TEEA Conference held at Horseshoe Bay Resort in September. Sounds like a lot of fun and learning.

"Enthusiasm can help you find the new doors, but it takes passion to open them."
~ Roy T Bennett

THE IDLE AMERICAN

In Circles Will We Go...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Columns often "just happen"--devoid of both rhyme and reason. Such is the case as this 16th year of weekly "whims" begins.

For several days, I've thought frequently of circles, some from 1944, when a beloved first-grade teacher meticulously drew circles on the chalk board. She called them "dishes," explaining that unexpected company had shown up, departing well before clean-up. "Who'd like to help me with the dishes?" she'd ask, smiling.

Hands flew up all over the room. Then, she'd ask each "helper" to "remove" one or two "dishes" with the sweep of an eraser. We were thus introduced to subtraction, perhaps the first (and maybe the last) mathematical concept I've truly understood....

As a rule, circles are precursors to something worse. For me, what begins as a twitch becomes a tremor when they morph into zeroes. Twitching sets in with nervous recall of high school and college algebra classes. Later, I barely made it through statistics during doctoral studies. There were simply too many numbers used in too many ways for this country boy. Stars properly aligned for degree completion, but not without major tremors.

We are in a high season for circles. A sports car is in orbit, and social media crawl with guffaws about it. If it is asked to "pull over," how far over is over? What if there are recalls? Will there be a need for tire alignment? Should the oil be changed regularly, maybe every million light years?

Our national debt--with big numbers in front of the zeroes--explodes. Youngsters drive their "wheels," and many prominent people--way too many, really--foul-up so badly, their "wheels fall off." Wheels are all around....

In Dallas, bicycles may be rented for a buck from four competing companies. They have 10,000 bikes to rent--more than any other city. Trouble is, riders may abandon them wherever they choose--on lawns, in traffic lanes, hanging from trees--you name it.

Non-riders are peeved; the city council is flustered. Until now, folks fishing in White Rock Lake have not been surprised to hook boots. Now, they may reel in bicycles.

Groans abound. At least one rental company owner is groaning. It began operations just months ago with 2,400 bikes. Its inventory now stands at 1,800....

At church recently, two comments prompted more circular thinking. In the sermon was a reference to "concentric circles," illustrative of relationships.

Then, in an announcement "round-up," reference was made to strong attendance, despite "frizzled" weather. Hmmm. Is "frizzle" a shortcut to "freezing drizzle?"

Circles--not dots--swirled in front of my eyes....

Nailing down reasons to write a "circular" column was Andy Howington, a fellow churchman and the object of guffaws since his recent purchase of a cherry-red Honda Gold Wing motorcycle. He found it on the Internet and soon was off to DeLeon for a "look-see." Sure enough, it was in mint condition.

Andy has owned a half-dozen cycles--maybe more--but this one is different.

It has two rear wheels....

Sunday school buddies are kidding him with little mercy. "Old Andy has reached his second childhood," one cackled. "He's back on a tricycle." Another claimed that when Andy rides, "he has to kick twice--once to start his motorcycle and another to start his pacemaker."

Still another said he saw "figure eights" on the icy church parking lot, tracks that were "clearly made by a three-wheeled motorcycle."

Andy chuckles, explaining he'll ride only when the temperature is near his age. He will be 90 on April 7....

The affable widower had wife Lois alongside until her death 15 months ago.

She remains fresh on his mind. Early in their marriage, she, too, had a motorcycle.

Andy rattles off the marital years of this revered Christian couple: 68 years, 3 months and 4 days--nary a zero in the bunch....

Dr. Newbury is a former educator who speaks throughout Texas and the Southwest. Comments/inquiries to:

newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com. Twitter: @donnewbury; Facebook, don newbury.

IN MEMORY

Mary McCarty - Dalhart - Dallam County - D1
Wanda Ponder - Wildorado - Oldham County - D1
Tino Short - Wildorado - Oldham County - D1
Ruby Haynes - Parker County - D3
Itasca Clayton - Bethel - Burnet County - D7
Anna Jenkins - Coleman County - D7
Jayne Sandbothe - Jones County - D7
Pat Clepper - Lampasas County - D7
Helen Hamilton - Seguin - Guadalupe County - D10
Helen Stein - Seguin - Guadalupe County - D10



The TEEA Messenger

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