

★ Storm Spotters

(Continued from page 1)

necessity of Storm Spotters in communities. "What's going on in the east side of the county may be different from what's going on in the west side."

Kimbrough added that Storm Spotters are local citizens who gather information to help the National Weather Service collect data on storms. The resulting data helps the weather service warn communities of incoming danger.

The class will last from two hours to two and a half hours, depending on how many questions Woodall gets from those in attendance.

People from all age groups are invited to attend, not just adults.

"Some of our best Storm Spotters have been nine and 10 year olds," Kimbrough said. "They're very interested in this type of information."

Kimbrough also said as far as she can remember, this is the first time a Storm Spotter class has been held in the Chandler area.

Woodall, the class teacher, is an experienced meteorologist and has taught many such classes before.

"I teach about 40-45 classes a year," Woodall said. "This is my eighth year at Fort Worth, and my 13th teaching these classes."

Woodall also said the Storm Spotters program is an important one.

"What we have is electronic data," Woodall said. "It only tells part of the story. Combined with Storm Spotters, we can put more confidence in our decisions."

Woodall added those who attend his class will learn a great deal about storms and will be more prepared to face them.

★ Board meeting (Continued from page 1)

way to check the health of employees.

"Last year it cost the school \$1,519 to check 175 employees," Caldwell said.

While the price for this year is estimated at \$1,700, this is still a bargain. Essentially, the screening gives each employee a medical checkup. Even at \$1,700, a checkup for 175 employees at this price amounts to less than \$10 for a medical checkup.

A pair of quick approvals followed as the board then approved a Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills waiver for senior high school students. The next item approved was on a series of textbooks for kindergarten through fifth grade math.

The waiver, Caldwell said, means seniors who do not have to take the TAKS test next school year need only report in to school, and are then dismissed. This year the school used this day to hand out graduation caps and gowns.

The board was then informed of the status of the property the school is buying as well as receiving through donation. According to Caldwell, this property is taking some time going through the school's title company. The board also heard of a possible bond issue to facilitate construction of school facilities. This will appear on future agendas.

The meeting closed with Caldwell's recommendation to rehire dozens of employees placed on short contracts.

AgriLIFE adds FCS agent

by Alyson Hoffman

Hello, Henderson County! Please allow me to introduce myself as the newest addition to the AgriLIFE Extension family. My name is Alyson Hoffman and I am the new Family and Consumer Sciences Agent for Henderson County. I graduated from Texas A&M University in May with a degree in Health with an emphasis on Community Health. So, as you can imagine my passion is healthy communities, and after growing up in Athens I could not wait to get back and share what I have learned.

Let me begin by telling you about our new name, AgriLIFE Extension Service. On January 1, 2008, Texas Cooperative Extension became AgriLIFE Extension Service. Let me assure you that nothing has changed and we are still a great resource and wonderful community educators.

As you may know, AgriLIFE Extension Service was created to provide practical educational information for residents of Texas. This was done so that their lives might be enriched in three specific areas including Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H and Youth Development and Family and Consumer Sciences. As a County Agent, our primary role is to work with community members and volunteers to identify the county's educational needs and to implement programs that meet those needs.

So I mentioned Family and Consumer Sciences, but what is that really? Well, Family and Consumer Sciences, or FCS as most call it, was designed to provide sensible information for communities about families raising children, managing money, housing and environment, and staying healthy by eating well and exercising. I hope you noticed that I said 'sensible' because all of the information I have to give is sensible. Trust me it is! My goal is not to completely change behaviors, but replace one or two "bad" habits for healthier ones. That sounds easy, right? This year we will be offering classes on healthy eating and cooking, living on a bud-

get, and living with diabetes. Also this year our banner program, Walk Across Texas! will be kicking off in late September. We had such great participation last year and I cannot wait to see what Henderson County does this year! Walk Across Texas! is a program that encourages the entire community to form teams of eight and increase physical activity levels for eight weeks. It is a great way to spend time with friends and family or both!

Also this summer we will be working with the East Texas Food Bank, local churches and community members to feed hungry children with the Summer Food Service Program. We will have two serving sites in Athens this year and also vans to transport children too far to walk. The Summer Food Service Program is a great program that feeds thousands of children every summer and we want this year to be the best yet. The program will start on June 9th and anyone wanting to participate should contact our office at 903-675-6130.

In addition to implementing these programs, I am here as an educational resource for anything related to Family and Consumer Sciences. Please feel free to call us at the Extension office, or just stop by. I may not have the answers to all of your questions, but I will do my best to find the answer for you. AgriLIFE is full of specialists and experts in many different fields.

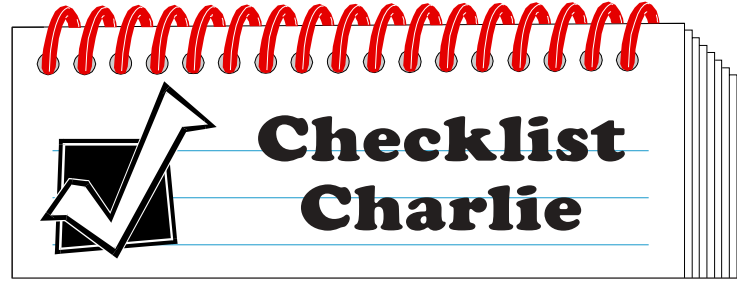
If you are interested in finding out more about AgriLIFE Extension Service and Family and Consumer Sciences, visit our website <http://fcs.tamu.edu>. This site has a great deal of information and lists any programs that I may not have mentioned.

I look forward to working with all of the great people of Henderson County!

Important Dates:

March is National Nutrition Month and the theme this year is *It's a Matter of Fact*. This campaign focuses importance on informed food decisions and the development of sound physical activity and eating choices.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.



Mother of the Bride: Rain means New Growth

It is raining today as I write.

It is a beautiful, drippy rain that gently announces spring-time has arrived in East Texas. The sky is my favorite light-soaked gray that spotlights all the vibrant greens and pinks, as if nature is declaring in triumph that new growth is pushing up yet again.

I'm glad it is raining today, even though I was thankful for the window of sunshine that appeared in perfect timing for my firstborn's outdoor wedding.

The rain fits my mood.

"It's a lot like childbirth all over again," whispered a dear friend as I stared off vacantly in a momentary lull at the reception. There was laughter all around me, but I wasn't paying attention until she leaned in to whisper her encouragement.

I snapped back to reality.

"I didn't expect it to hurt this much," I whispered, looking deeply into my friend's eyes, soaking up her compassion as she nodded with understanding.

Each time I gave birth to my children I purposely stayed at the hospital an extra day to heal. I knew once they loaded me into that wheelchair and pushed me out the front door, that I would be the caretaker of that delightful little bundle. I needed to be ready.

I figure waving goodbye to your firstborn as she happily skips away holding the hand of her beloved qualifies as one of those rewards in life that requires astonishing courage.

So, I'm taking the day off today.

Tomorrow, I will wake up, put on my game face, focus my attention on eternity, and get back in the game of life. I will focus a thankful heart on the small blessings that happen each moment for the person who is paying attention.

Tomorrow, I will drop my son off at school and holler out the window as I drive away, "You are the best boy in the whole world!"

I will interview my friend who made planning a wedding and a reception a piece of cake; a delicious, three-tiered white cake with a hand-painted topper of the bride and groom, to be exact.

I will call another friend who is planning her daughter's wedding and I will ask if her bride has chosen her colors yet. I will give my friend the heads-up on what the process will cost her emotionally.

I will pack my suitcase for a weekend away with the groom I chose almost twenty-five years ago.

Today, however, I am going to wrap a blanket around myself. I am going to reflect on the birthing process. I am going to consider the difference between physical birth and emotionally letting go.

And I am going to watch it rain.

Cathy Primer Krafve, aka Checklist Charlie, lives in East Texas, where she grew up, married, and gave birth to all three of her children. She welcomes all comments at CaeKrafve2@aol.com.

Have you seen this dog?

Last seen the night of January 24th on our porch on Castleberry Street in Brownsboro.

Very much missed by his boy, his chickens and his goats, all of whom he protects and loves.

Was wearing a red collar, he may have slipped it.

Un-Neutered male, Great Pyrenees. Almost 2-years old, about 85lbs.

Please call 903-539-5703 with **ANY** information you may have.



Reward for his safe return

Ellis Mercantile

"The Family Resale Store"

Up to 75% off
every day on selected merchandise

903-596-0204
16450 Hwy. 31 W. Tyler, Tx 75709

Consignments Welcome

Hours: 9:30 - 5:30 Mon-Sat



Thank You



for your Support

State Representative Betty Brown

POLITICAL ADV. BY RE-ELECT BETTY BROWN CAMPAIGN, TREASURER, RON BROWN. P.O. Box 1477, TERRELL, TX 75160

Meals on Wheels

Menu March 17-21
(Milk served with meals)

MON: Irish beef stew, beets, green beans, crackers, Jell-O

TUES: Chicken nuggets, cream corn, Italian blend vegetables, bread, pudding

WED: Pork chops, macaroni & cheese, seasoned cabbage, bread, Mandarin orange cup

THUR: Smothered chicken, peas with snaps, seasoned squash, cornbread, cake

FRI: Good Friday Holiday

Check us out online!
www.c-bstatesman.com



Lake Palestine

United Methodist Church

2889 FM 315 South, Chandler

Holy Week Services & Activities

March 17th-23rd
(Mon-Fri: 10 min. Devotionals @ 6:30 AM)

Tue: 7 PM Passover Seder Presentation
(limited seating; call for reservation: 903-849-2379)

Thurs: 7 PM Maundy Thursday Service

Fri: 7 PM Good Friday Service

Sat: 2 PM Community Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday
7AM Community Sunrise Service
10:50 AM Worship Service

All are invited to join us in preparation for
and the joyful celebration of
our Lord's Resurrection!



Normal Meeting times:
Praise Worship @ 8:30 AM
Blended Worship @ 10:50 AM
Small Group Ed. Opportunities 9:40 AM

Invitation to Participate

3rd Annual Party in the Patch

Attention:
Artists • Food Vendors • Bar-B-Q Chefs
Motorcycle, Tractor & Hot Rod Clubs
Horseshoe & 42 Enthusiasts

Reserve your spot today!
Sat. April 5 • Kilgore City Park • 8am to 5pm
Call 903-984-5571

Benefitting the East Texas Treatment Center • Kilgore