

BUFFALO PRESS WEEKLY REGIONAL FARM & RANCH NEWS



These Leon County Cooks served up good eats to raise money for the graduating seniors at Leon High School. Front row: Kyleigh DeBorde, A.C. Cockrum, Jameshia King, Haley Crowson, Ree Stricklin. Back row: Sissy Beard, Tammye Koenig, Kendle Charlton, Connie Hall, Andrianna Steed, Sophia Wilson. *Sherry's Shots*

Leon County Cooks: Leon Project Graduation

By Sherry Matney

Greeting fans as they came into the Billy Evan Gymnasium at Leon High School on Friday night, January 22 was a group of enthusiastic folks who had cooked baked potatoes with all the fixins' for those who attended the Leon Basketball games. Heading up the group was Project Graduation president Tammye Koenig who was busy getting things ready for the crowd.

Vice President Sissy Beard had her hands full trying to get the pies and cakes ready for the bake sale between games and the silent auction which continued throughout the evening.

Koenig explained that Project Graduation raised funds to be used to benefit the seniors at Leon High School. One of the big events is a "lock in" which will take place following graduation, from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. The "lock in" will provide non-alcoholic refreshments and entertainment throughout the night. Additionally, funds are provided graduating senior, on a "points" basis, to purchase necessities for life at college. Last year the group raised over \$27,000.

Of course the pies and cakes did not raise all of the \$27,000 but they are, without doubt, one of the best fundraisers around. This night the group offered homemade coconut cream pie, chocolate

cream pie and made from scratch carrot cake with cream cheese frosting. (Not that I'm counting, but one slice of carrot cake has 491 calories.) Anyway, I thought it might be fun to use some of those tried and true cake and pie recipes in this week's Cook column.

Carrot Cake

- 4 eggs
- 1 1/4 cups vegetable oil
- 2 cups white sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 3 cups grated carrots
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour a 9x13 inch pan.
2. In a large bowl, beat together eggs, oil, white sugar and 2 teaspoons vanilla. Mix in flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt and cinnamon. Stir in carrots. Fold in pecans. Pour into prepared pan.
3. Bake in the preheated oven for 40 to 50 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean. Let cool in pan for 10 minutes, then turn

out onto a wire rack and cool completely.

4. To Make Frosting: In a medium bowl, combine butter, cream cheese, confectioners' sugar and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Beat until the mixture is smooth and creamy. Stir in chopped pecans. Frost the cooled cake.

Italian Cream Cake (717 calories)

- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 2 cups white sugar
- 5 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup flaked coconut
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 2 tablespoons light cream
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 cup sweetened flaked coconut

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease three 9 inch round cake pans. In a small bowl, dissolve the baking soda in the buttermilk; set aside.
2. In a large bowl, cream together 1/2 cup butter, shortening and white sugar until light and fluffy. Mix in the eggs, buttermilk mixture, 1 teaspoon vanilla, 1 cup coconut, baking powder and flour. Stir until just combined. Pour batter into the prepared pans.
3. Bake in the preheated oven for 30 to 35 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean. Allow to cool.
4. To Make Frosting: In a medium bowl, combine cream cheese, 1/2 cup butter, 1 teaspoon vanilla and confectioners' sugar. Beat until light and fluffy. Mix in a small amount of cream to attain the desired consistency. Stir in chopped nuts and remaining flaked coconut. Spread between layers and on top and sides of cooled cake.

Coconut Cream Pie (307 calories)

- 1 (9 inch) pie crust, baked
- 2/3 cup white sugar
- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups milk
- 4 egg yolks, beaten
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- 4 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup shredded coconut

1. In a large saucepan, combine sugar, cornstarch, and salt. Mix well, then slowly whisk in milk and egg yolks. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture thickens and boils. Boil and stir 1 minute. Remove from heat.

2. Stir butter or margarine and vanilla extract into mixture. Add shredded coconut and mix thoroughly. Pour immediately into pie shell. Garnish with whipped cream or make meringue and spread on top of pie and bake for 12 to 15 minutes at 350.

Turfgrass Conference set for Overton

By Robert Burns

OVERTON -- Speakers at the East Texas Turfgrass Conference, set Feb. 4 at Overton, will cover a variety of management issues, ranging from disease updates to weed identification and control of feral hogs in urban and suburban settings.

Today, management problems for turfgrass in sports fields aren't limited to disease and weed problems. Feral hogs have become a big issue too, said a Texas AgriLife Extension Service expert.

"Because of urban and suburban sprawl, feral hogs encroachment into these areas is on the rise," said Dr. Billy Higginbotham, AgriLife Extension wildlife and fisheries specialist.

The conference will be held at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Overton.

Registration is \$25 and will include lunch, refreshments and educational materials. Holders of Texas Department of Agriculture

pesticide applicator licenses will receive 5.5 continuing education units.

The program is designed for professionals who maintain school districts grounds, city parks and recreation facilities, and commercial lawn and landscape companies, according to Dennis Smith, AgriLife Extension agent in Gregg County.

Homeowners and Master Gardeners may find the information useful too, Smith said.

Higginbotham will not only discuss the extent of feral hog encroachment but also the issues involved in controlling the species in urban and suburban environments.

"The best control remains trapping, as in rural areas," he said. "But once you've got them, the question is what do you do with them."

In rural environments, it's common to shoot the animals once they're trapped. But in urban areas, this is usually not a solution because of safety and legal concerns,

Higginbotham said.

"So it's necessary to choose a trap that allows it to either be loaded on a trailer with hogs inside or one where the hogs can be transferred to another confinement," he said.

Other speakers and topics will include: "Disease Control Updates For Turfgrass," Karl Steddom, AgriLife Extension plant pathologist; "Weed Identification," Dr. Jim McAfee, AgriLife Extension turfgrass specialist; "When You Can't Grow Grass," Keith Hansen, AgriLife Extension horticultural agent in Smith County; "Zoysia Management and Varieties For East Texas," McAfee; "Turfgrass Insect Problems," Dr. Scott Ludwig, AgriLife Extension integrated pest management specialist; "Ants, Ants & More Ants," Dr. Bart Drees, AgriLife Extension entomologist; "Facts & Fiction on Soil Fertility Products," Dr. Leon Young, Stephen F. Austin University.

TDA receives more than \$770,000 to enhance biosecurity

AUSTIN— Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples today announced the Texas Department of Agriculture has been awarded \$772,301 in funding from USDA to monitor entry of plant pests at strategic checkpoints and conduct reviews of Texas' plant pest detection and response activities.

"It is essential we protect our \$106 billion Texas agriculture industry from dangerous plant pests and diseases," Commissioner Staples said. "These critical biosecurity funds will assist us in our

goal of enhancing early plant pest detection and surveillance, threat identification and safeguarding our nursery industry."

TDA will use the funds to conduct roadside and market inspections. Inspectors will search for quarantined products that are infested with pests or carrying dangerous diseases. TDA was awarded \$107,479 to enhance plant pest and disease exclusion, detection and response activities. The agency received an additional \$664,822 to survey critical Texas entry points for

pests along known-risk pathways.

USDA has allocated \$45 million from the 2008 Farm Bill for building and preserving critical plant health initiatives this year. Funding is being provided to state departments of agriculture, universities, nonprofit organizations and USDA agencies.

For more information on the USDA pest, disease, management and disaster prevention funds, please visit TDA's Web site at www.TexasAgriculture.gov.

BUFFALO GAL IS ALREADY SPRING CLEANING!

Check out the 50% off room!

It's got to go!

1042 W. Commerce • Buffalo
903-322-1810

CHANDLER WATER WELL DRILLERS

- Water Well Drilling
- Pump Service
- Curb Well Clean Outs

Wil Hammack
Lic. # 55055AKP

1-903-852-3922
Cell 1-903-570-1434

Sullivan Classic Homes, "Building The American Dream"

www.sullivanclassichomes.com

- Your Plan Or Ours • Your Lot Or Ours
- Top Quality At Affordable Price
- Any Style, Any Size

936-349-0858 • cell 936-672-4713 • fax 936-349-0954
"Building Top Quality Homes At An Affordable Price"

NORMANGEE TRACTOR

Kubota

FREE DELIVERY! • TRADE-INS WELCOME • 3YR WARRANTY!

THE TIME IS RIGHT and So Are Our Prices!

Zero Down 0% APR Financing On All NEW Kubota Equipment*

Call For Details

See Our Other Tractor Specials In Farm & Ranch!

- 4WD
- Factory Cab
- Factory Air Conditioner
- Factory Hoses
- Tightest, Quietest, Coolest
- Most Comfortable Cab In The Industry

For The Largest Selection & Guaranteed Best Prices On All Your Kubota Tractors and Farm Equipment Needs

NOBODY BEATS... NORMANGEE TRACTOR!!

Voted "Best Lawn & Farm Retailer" in the Best of the Brazos Valley Survey 2002-2003-2004-2005-2006-2007-2008-2009

NEW KUBOTA L3400F 2WD 35 HP Tractor

All For Only **\$12,895**

- 5' Pasture Shredder
- 5' Box Blade
- Power Steering

10% Down Payment • Only **\$167/mo.***

NEW KUBOTA L2800 DT 4WD 30HP Tractor

All For Only **\$17,249**

- Kubota Front End Loader
- Skid Steer Quick Attach Bucket
- 5' Pasture Shredder
- 5' Box Blade
- Power Steering

10% Down Payment • Only **\$225/mo.***

NEW KUBOTA MX5100F 2WD 52HP Tractor

All For Only **\$18,649**

- Kubota Front End Loader
- Skid Steer Quick Attach Bucket
- 5' Pasture Shredder
- 5' Box Blade
- Power Steering

10% Down Payment • Only **\$243/mo.***

NEW KUBOTA MX5100F 2WD 52HP Tractor

Also Available in 4 Wheel Drive

All For Only **\$17,899**

- Skid Steer Quick Attach Bucket

10% Down Payment • Only **\$232/mo.***

Check Out Our Internet Specials At Normangeetractor.com

NORMANGEE TRACTOR & IMPLEMENT CO.

CORNER OF Hwy 39 @ OSR • NORMANGEE, TX • www.normangeetractor.com

1-800-396-3101 • 936-396-3101

HOURS: MON-FRI 8:30AM-5:30PM SAT 8:00AM-4:00PM SUNDAY 10:00AM-4:00PM OR CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT