

The EEA Connection

December 29, 2015

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New Year's Resolutions Anyone?

Now that 2015 has arrived, it's often customary for many to make New Year's Resolutions. For most, many are kept but it is not uncommon to fall short with good intentions. This year, I am hoping that each member will join me in making 2015 one of the best year's ever. Let's stand united and commit to exploring new horizons. I look forward to the trainings and opportunities planned for this year and I hope you are too. Feel free to invite a friend because there is enough fun to go around for everyone. Have a wonderful New Year and I look forward to enjoying it with each of you.

Michelle

District Spring EEA Meeting

District II Extension Education Association Spring Conference will be held at the Matagorda County Fairgrounds in Bay City, Texas on April 10, 2015. Look for more details coming in the future.

Baked Potato Luncheon is Around the Corner.....



The Baked Potato Fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, March 5th from 11:00 am to 1:00 p.m. We are counting on as many as can to sell tickets. Please contact your club presi-

dent for tickets. We will be asking each club to donate a specific amount of cookies. Club Presidents, please contact Judy Schultz for this information. Brownies or bar type cookies are acceptable. Place two cookies in a

zip lock bag prior to bringing them to the Extension Office. Also each club is asked to donate two deep dish pies. The pies need to be 8" and on a disposable pie plate (all pie plates are non-returnable).

County EEA Cultural Arts Contest



February 2nd is the date for the County EEA Cultural Arts Contest. Entries must arrive at the Bellville Methodist Church Activity Center before 10:45 a.m. because judging will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m.! A list of the entry categories is included in this newsletter. A copy of the entry form is also enclosed. Please attach a copy to every item you enter. Don't worry about the signature, Jessie will sign the entries advancing to district competition. See attachment for all rules. First and second place entries will be announced following the meal. First and second place entries will advance to the District Cultural Arts Contest in April.

Spring Car Trip to Painted Churches!

**Save the date
April 9, 2015**

*We will keep you
posted.*

Commissioners Luncheon

EEA's annual Commissioner's Luncheon is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2015 at Methodist Activity Center in Bellville at noon. This is your day to share the wonderful things you do so well in your community. In addition, all clubs are asked to bring a pot of soup, a loaf of sandwiches, and a dessert. We look forward to having a great day and we hope that as many as can will join us.



Fall EEA Training—Bay City, Texas

On Friday, December 5th, three Austin County delegates attended the Fall Officer Training in Bay City, Texas. The three delegates representing Austin County were Jessie Kokemor, Knellen Quinteros and Karen Landrum. At the next council meeting, training information will be shared. Thanks for representing the fantastic members of Austin County EEA!



5 Easy Steps to Clean Your House in 30 Minutes

1. **Straighten up the entryway.** One Minute Fix: Dot the light bulbs in your ceiling fixture with a drop of lavender essential oil. Guests will be greeted to a soothing scent that's not overpowering.
2. **Give the kitchen some sparkle.** Clean only the spots that are really noticeable. One-Minute Fix: Stashing bulky countertop appliances in a closet, and visible food in the fridge. Gather any loose paper into a single pile.
3. **Rejuvenate your bathroom.** One-Minute Fix: Stock the bathroom with a fresh bar of soap, a full roll of toilet paper, and a few clean and pretty hand towels.
4. **Liven up the living room.** One-Minute Fix: Turn off those harsh overhead lights and about half of your table lamps. This not only creates mood lighting, it makes it harder for guests to see dirt.
5. **Quickly clean the bedroom.** One-Minute Fix: Straighten up the bed, which is the first thing guests notice. Align the sheets, smooth the bedspread, arrange accent pillows symmetrically and fold extra blankets.
6. Source: All You.com

Four Ingredients or Less

Four Ingredients or Less has been scheduled for Thursday, January 8th at 6:30 p.m. at the Extension Office . Please bring your favorite recipe made from four ingredients or less. There will be four categories to enter your dish. The four categories are main dish, side creation, dessert and miscellaneous. Your participation will make this workshop 100% effective and 100% productive. Be sure to bring a friend!

EEA Council Meeting

The next E.E. Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 2pm at the Extension Office. Each club member is welcome to attend and each club is entitled to cast 3 votes on any issues requiring a vote or election.



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Easter/Patriotic Cultural Arts Project in March!

Another Cultural Arts project featuring Easter and patriotic décor is around the corner for all members. Details will be forthcoming but please hold Thursday, March 19th for the event. The event will be held in West End and will be released in a separate flyer. Hope you can make it.

Little Known Facts About Austin County

There will be an educational program about some historical facts related to the history of Birthplace of Texas during the month of February. Please look for more information to come in a separate flyer at a later date.

Recipe Corner

Barbeque Beef Cups (4 Ingredients or Less)

Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground beef or pork
- ½ cup barbecue sauce
- 1 tube of 8-10 refrigerator biscuits
- ¾ cup cheddar cheese, shredded

Directions:

1. Brown meat and drain.
2. Add barbecue sauce and mix well.
3. Place unbaked biscuit into each muffin cup.
4. Pressing to cover bottom and sides of cup.
5. Spoon meat mixture into biscuit cups.
6. Sprinkle with cheese.
7. Bake at 400°F for 10-12 minutes.

Prepare for Taxes in 4 Weeks

WEEK 1 Look over last year's return. Examining your previous return will help you recall what paperwork you need. If your return is missing, call the IRS (800-829-1040) and request a free transcript. It should be easy to retrieve if you used a tax preparer, attorney or software. Make an appointment. If you'll need a tax preparer, arrange to meet in two weeks to give yourself time to get organized. If you're doing the return on your own, schedule time to work on it and note it on your calendar.



WEEK 2 Gather 2014 paperwork. Go to organizit.hrblock.com to create a personalized checklist of the documents you need for your return. Check off the items as you locate them or receive them in the mail. You should have received everything by mid-February, but if you're missing a form, such as a W-2, contact your employer to request a copy. If you plan to file a paper return, pick up copies of IRS forms at your post office or library or download them at www.irs.gov. Purchase any software you need to file your taxes. Find your receipts. If you plan to itemize, review last year's return, your 2013 calendar and past credit card bills to jog your memory about possible deductions. Did you give to charity or take out a loan? If you're missing receipts, ask the groups or businesses to send them to you. Then organize the receipts by category and create an envelope for each: charity, medical expenses, etc.

WEEK 3 Crunch the numbers. With your papers organized, the hard part is done. Meet with your tax preparer or sit down at your computer or desk to input the information. Mail off your return. Check for common filing mistakes, then seal the envelope or click the send button.

WEEK 4 Organize after you file. Store tax forms, receipts and a copy of your return in a safe place. Buy a file or accordion folder and label a section for each month's receipts and important paperwork. Hold on to everything for 6 to 10 years.

Source: AllYou.com

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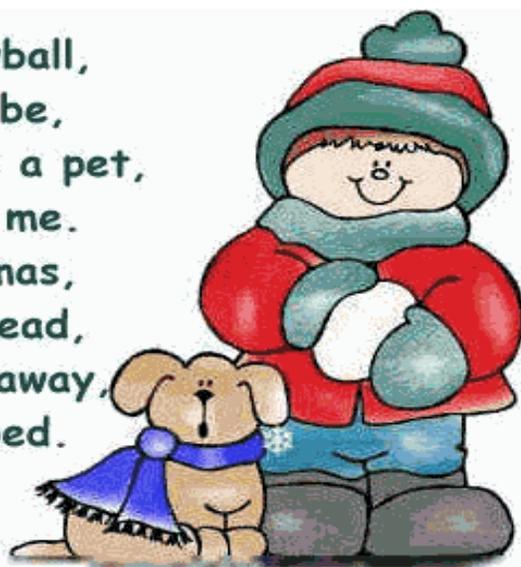
Dollars “4” Scholars

All clubs are asked to start bringing in their Dollars 4 Scholars contributions to the County Extension Office. Funds will be given to the District representatives in March at the Spring Conference. Dollars for Scholars are collected statewide and these funds are used on special projects at the State 4-H Center in Brownwood. All money is appreciated and used wisely.

Just for Laughs

I made myself a snowball,
As perfect as could be,
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
And let it sleep with me.
I made it some pajamas,
And a pillow for its head,
Then last night it ran away,
But first-- it wet the bed.

Author Unknown



WE'RE ON THE WEB!!
AUSTIN.AGRILIFE.ORG

West End Tasters' Luncheon

February 15, 2015
Please see attached
flyer for all the
details. Please try to
attend. Great food
and fellowship!

Evelyn's Care and Concern Corner

Members, please remember Evelyn when it comes to information pertaining to the members. Any news is welcomed. All news will be communicated to those on her committee. The following persons has been reported at this time to her so please keep them in your prayers.

Cheer Card—Diane Rhine

Sympathy Card—Rosalee Minks (death of husband)

Sympathy Card—Pat Byas (death of great granddaughter)

Get-Well Card—Gloria and Alfred Havemann