

News From Your County Agent
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This past weekend is one we will not forget for a very long time. All of us have in one way or another have been touched, impacted or at least make us remember how fortunate we are after the events this weekend and for days to come. Hotels in our area are for the most part full and in some cases some of us will be asked to assist with recovery efforts. It is just beyond my scope of comprehension how so much water can fall in one area for so long and we did not even get a trace, but that is the power of mother nature. Greetings to all of you and thank you so much for reading this week.

Be Aware of Hurricane Victim Scams

Since our area was spared from the devastation in Southeastern Texas we will be one of the target area for possible hurricane victim scams. Remember we still have several evacuees in our area that will need some assistance when they get back home so the opportunity by those individuals that prey on innocent people that want to help and victims as well will no doubt swing into action soon.

Scammers are already using the Hurricane Harvey disaster to trick people in clicking on links, both on Facebook, Twitter and publishing emails trying to solicit charitable giving for the flood victims. Here are some examples:

Facebook pages dedicated to victim relief contain links to scam websites.

Tweets are going out with links to charitable websites soliciting donations, but in reality included spam links or links that lead to a Malware infection.

Publishing emails dropping in a user's inbox asking for donations to #Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund.

Previous disasters have been exploited like this, and the bad guys are going at it again. Be wary of anything online covering the Hurricane Harvey disaster in the following weeks. Ask for the name, address, and phone number of the charity — and whether or not it is registered. If the presenters claim that it is registered, get a registration number. Do not open attachments (including supposed pictures of disaster areas) — they may well include viruses. The Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance offers information about national charities; you can call 703-276-0100 or go to their website:==> <http://www.give.org> . The United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has compiled a list of reputable voluntary organizations that urgently need cash donations to assist victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas Gulf Coast Counties.

4-H Registration is Now Open

The Texas 4-H enrollment system online line is up and running and fully active at this time. Each year on August 15th all membership in Texas 4-H goes to inactive and all youth members a adult volunteers must re-enroll. Youth members are required to pay a \$20.00 participation fee if enrolled by October 31st , and a \$25.00 fee beginning on November 1st to the completion of the 4-H year. Adults pay a \$5.00 volunteer applicant fee. Adults and youth will need to enroll on 4HConnect and be active to be considered an official member of Texas 4-H. An active enrollment is required in

order to register and participate in all 4-H activities and events. Please see the tip of the week for enrollment tips.

Tip of the Week: 4-H Enrollment Tips and Instructions

Every year not only in Zavala County but across the state the 4-H enrollment process seems to be an issue for many families that are trying to enroll for the first time or are trying to re-enroll for another 4-H year. This process is so important that it has been provided via newsletter and in social media as well but we feel it is so important to include the topic in this valuable news media outlet. 4-H Connect is the official Texas 4-H Youth Development Program database for enrolled 4-H members and volunteers.

4-H connect is a secured database that is in compliance with the PCI Security Standards Council. The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program and the 4HOnline company work closely to monitor and ensure the highest level of protection for information stored on the system. Texas 4-H, nor 4HOnline, does not share or sell any personal information to third party vendors without your knowledge or permission.

Based on “zero-based enrollment.” This means that each year at the start of the enrollment cycle membership in Texas 4-H goes to zero and everyone must re-enroll. This process is based on federal accounting. We encourage all 4-H families to become familiar with 4-H CONNECT in order to prevent “meltdowns” at crucial times of enrollment, animal validation or registration! Please work with the county Extension Office for any questions or problems you may be experiencing with the system. Here is a step by step instructions on how to enroll in 4-H.

Access the **4-H CONNECT** on-line system at

<https://texas.4honline.com/Login.aspx?403D4079444C6D387A6E595A2F6F3D>

1. *New Members: Select {I need to set up a profile}*
2. *Returning Members: Select {I have a profile} or {I forgot my password}*
** Contact County Extension Office for resetting assistance.*
3. *New Members: Select Adult or Youth from the drop down menu and click {Add Member}*
4. *Returning Members: Click {Edit} to the right of the inactive member's profile*
5. *Once all profile information is current and correct under the Personal Information, Additional Information, Health Form, and Participation areas of enrollment continue to the Invoice page.*
6. *Review your invoice to ensure that the participation fee has been charged and it is correct.*
7. *New Members: If you are new to 4-H, you can add your credit card payment information to 4-H CONNECT and it will be securely stored. Click the orange {Add New Credit Card} link if paying with credit card.*
8. *Returning Members: If the credit card on file has been updated you will need to remove it and add the credit card again using the new information.*
9. *Select the appropriate method of payment by clicking on the correct button, then click {Select Payment Method}*
10. *On the “Confirm page” each person will be required to click the {Pay By Computer Terms and Conditions}. Click {Submit Enrollment}*
11. *Once an enrollment (new member) or re-enrollment (returning member) has been*

submitted, it is sent to the county office for review and approval. Once approved and paid for, an email confirmation will be sent to the family email address. Payment by 4-H Check can take up to 2 weeks to process. An active membership status WILL NOT be granted until participation fees have been received and marked as paid.

Texas has more than 550,000 youth who are involved in 4-H experiences each year and we are pleased that you have decided to join 4-H for the 2017-2018 year! Have a great week. M.V.

August 28-Sept.01, 2017.

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