

**...ACT Registration**

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As part of the Texas College Preparation Program, Texas juniors may ask for a free ACT exam voucher from their counselors. Those who cannot take the April test may receive a voucher for the June 11, 2011 test.

The ACT is a curriculum-based achievement exam. It tests what students have actually learned in school, not their aptitude for learning. The ACT also measures what students need to know to be ready for first year credit-bearing college courses based on ACT College Readiness Standards™. Every student's results can be tied directly to these consistent standards.

The ACT has four sections—English, mathematics, reading and science—and takes about three hours to complete. Students who take the ACT Plus Writing complete an optional writing test that requires an additional 30 minutes. Unlike other exams, students are not penalized for guessing or answering all the questions on each test section. In fact, it is beneficial for test takers to answer all questions within the time allowed.

During registration, students may select up to four universities to receive their score reports. ACT scores are accepted by all four-year colleges and universities across the United States. ACT reports scores only when requested to do so by the student. Additional score reports are available for a small fee.

All students complete a detailed inventory of questions during ACT registration. Each test taker receives an ACT score report that includes a wide variety of information to assist with high school course selection, college readiness, career planning, and college admissions.

The cost for the ACT test without writing is \$33. When combined with the optional ACT Writing Test, the total cost is \$48. Students who qualify may apply for a fee waiver through their high school counselor.

Texas students can find more information about vouchers at <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/voucher.html>.

The ACT website, [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org), has helpful information, free sample items, and options to order inexpensive test prep materials to assist test takers get ready for the exam. However, the best preparation is to take rigorous core courses in school, study hard, and learn the academic skills needed in college.

Most students register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). Students may also pick up

registration forms from their high school counseling offices. Late registration is available until March 18, 2011 for an additional \$21 fee.

**Euterpean Club of Blackwell hold February meeting**

The Euterpean Club of Blackwell met at the Methodist Fellowship Hall for their February meeting. Shirley Lemley was hostess and conducted a short business meeting. She welcomed Connie Tomlinson as a new member. She also had the program and had previously told us to bring an oversized coffee mug and a dollar bill to club with us. To our surprise we each made a chocolate cake in our cup. The cake was called A Five-Minute Cake or The Worlds Most Dangerous Chocolate Cake (too easy and good for dieters). It was a fun time, it worked and with ice cream made a delicious refreshment. She shared a computer print-out with a history from the 15th century telling the background of common expressions used by us today. We studied our dollar bill learning the meaning of each part of it. Had knowledge and food in one meeting.

Present were the hostess, Connie, Shirley Passmore, Jane Battle, Rosie Ten Eyck, Sue Smiley, Cherry Green, Rebecca Whittle and Bobbie Varnadore.

This cake would be a fun project for a bored, visiting grandchild. In a large mug, mix 4 T. flour, 4 T. sugar, and 2T cocoa and stir, add 1 egg & stir; mix 3 T. milk, 3 T. oil, 3 T. chocolate chip, a splash of vanilla, stir; and cook 3 minutes in the microwave.

**Direct & Counter-cyclical Payment Signup Ends June 1**

USDA Farm Service Agency reminds producers that the deadline to sign up for the 2011 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) program is June 1, 2011.

Payments are calculated using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. Advance payments of 22 per-

cent on the 2011 DCP program will be available starting December 1, 2010. The remaining 78 percent of the DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011.

Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

"It is important that producers submit their DCP contracts before June 1, 2011 because applications will not be approved after this date.

Producers can fill out a DCP contract at any USDA Service Center or online. To access the online service, producers must have an

active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account. To get a Level 2 account, producers must complete an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> and then visit the local USDA Service Center to verify their identity.


For more information about DCP, please contact the Coke/Sterling County FSA office at 325-453-2751. Information can also be obtained on line at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

**Scholarships available**

High school seniors may apply for the Leadership San Angelo Alumni Association Scholarship. The deadline to apply is March 25th and applications are available on

the scholarship bulletin board at Bronte HS.

The Concho Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) also has announced a scholarship. In order to be eligible to apply, the applicant must be an active member of CVEC whose primary residence is served by CVEC or be the dependent of a CVEC member whose primary residence is served by CVEC. The applicant will be chosen based on the following criteria: grades, leadership, community, school activities and essay. The deadline to apply is April 4, 2011. Applications are available on the scholarship bulletin board at BHS or one may be obtained by calling the CVEC office at 655-6957 or visit the CVEC website at [www.cvec.coop](http://www.cvec.coop).



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