

West Rusk awarded \$193,398 for welding training with Kilgore College

From Staff Reports

West Rusk CCISD has been awarded a \$193,398 state grant to purchase and install equipment for welding training in partnership with Kilgore College, supporting career preparation for 16 students.

The award is part of more than \$20 million in Jobs and Education for Texans grants announced by Gov. Greg Abbott. Administered by the Texas Workforce Commission, the JET program helps eligible schools establish or improve career and technical education



programs that prepare students for high-demand occupations.

West Rusk is among three school districts listed in the announcement with projects in-

volving Kilgore College or Panola College. Together, their grants total \$616,694 and are expected to support training for 146 students.

Garrison ISD received \$342,190 to train 64 students as welders in partnership with Panola College. Waskom ISD was awarded \$81,106 to train 66 students as medical assistants, also through a partnership with Panola College.

For West Rusk, the funding will provide equipment to support students preparing for welding careers. JET grants cover equipment purchases and installation, helping schools address the start-

up costs associated with developing career training programs.

Across Texas, the announcement includes 84 grants awarded to public junior, state and technical colleges, school districts and open-enrollment charter schools. The equipment is expected to help train more than 7,400 students during its first year of use.

"Students deserve a clear and affordable path to high-paying careers," Abbott said in the announcement. "Through more than \$20 million in career training grants, Texas students will have

the opportunity to earn licenses, certificates, or college degrees that lead to high-wage jobs."

TWC Chairman Joe Esparza said the investment supports both students entering the workforce and businesses seeking skilled employees.

"A skilled workforce is essential to the success of Texas businesses and the strength of our economy," Esparza said.

Funded by the Texas Legislature, the JET program requires grant-supported equipment to be used to train students for jobs in high-demand occupations.

Rusk County beekeepers invite community to monthly meetings



From Staff Reports

Residents curious about honey bees can learn more without owning a hive through the Rusk County Beekeepers Association's ongoing monthly meetings.

The association meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Rusk County AgriLife Extension Office, 113 E. Fordall St. in Henderson. Meetings are free to attend, and visitors are welcome.

Group leaders invite beginners, experienced beekeepers, gardeners and families to learn about honey bees, beekeeping, local honey and pollinators. Bee ownership is not required, making the meetings accessible to those considering the hobby or simply interested in learning more.

With an invitation to "bring a friend," the association encourages residents to explore their curiosity and connect with others who share an interest in bees and local pollinators.

For more information, find the Rusk County Beekeepers Association on Facebook at @RuskCoBees or email ruskcobees@gmail.com.



HOW SWEET IT IS



Quilters, broom makers, blacksmiths and so much more can be found on the Depot Museum grounds during the 37th annual Heritage Syrup Festival. The heart of the festival brings history to life for all who visit. (Amber Lollar/The Henderson News Photos)

Behind the Syrup Festival scenes at the Depot grounds

KAREN MOBBS
Contributing Writer

The 37th annual Heritage Syrup Festival is set kick off at 9 a.m., Saturday, November

14. Festival activities will split between the downtown and the Depot Museum grounds.

Planning and preparations are happening every single day both behind the scenes and in fairly

obvious ways.

What will be most noticeable change to regular Depot attendees is the new 1901 Depot Musicians' Stage. The rickety, aged decking on the back of the

Depot was disassembled and removed, and a beautiful new performance venue has gone up in its place.

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Death reports released in Highway 31 crash

From Staff Reports

Four teens who led police on a high-speed chase on State Highway 31 in Smith County were killed accidentally by law enforcement, according to a newly released report from the state attorney general.

In custodial death reports released Friday by the Office of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, the deaths of all four teenagers killed in a crash in the early morning hours of Sept. 27 were formally ruled as accidental and caused by law enforcement personnel. The medical cause of death remains pending for all four teenagers.

Around 3:43 a.m. Sept. 27, Tyler Police Depart-



ment officers responded to a suspicious noise call that turned out to be gunshots

in the 1500 block of Lake Placid Road. The caller vehicle as a 2009 Nissan said people were shooting

and described the suspect coupe.

The custodial death report states there were multiple shooters and victims. When officers got to the scene, the Maxima - driven by one teen and carrying the other three teens - fled the scene. According to the report, witnesses identified the occupants as the shooters.

Although officers tried to stop the Maxima, authorities say the teens continued to flee, leading officers on a high-speed pursuit on Highway 31. The report states that because the driver's behavior was "hazardous" and due to "other information known at the time," an officer executed a Precision

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SPORTS

Mustangs roll past Cross Roads for fourth straight win... more on 7A.



SCRIPTURE

"Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am faint; heal me, Lord, for my bones are in agony. My soul is in deep anguish. How long, Lord, how long? Turn, Lord, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love." Psalm 6:2

WEATHER

Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 93, low around 66.

