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 Cherokee County \$19 per year
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Local tourism gets boost with dogwood blossoms

The Texas State Railroad will be making extra train runs in celebration of the Texas Dogwood Trails Celebration in Palestine, said Debbie Dugan of the state railroad.

The train will make additional runs from the Rusk depot only on Thursdays and Fridays from March 22 through April 6. Departure times are 11 a.m. from the Rusk depot. The train will return at 3:30 p.m.

"We will continue making our normal runs on the weekends," Ms. Dugan said, noting that ridership remains high.

"The trains are very full," she said. "Last weekend, we were full on Saturday and almost full on Sunday. Generally, the steam train is full (of riders)."

Ms. Dugan said the steam train would be running out of Rusk during March, with

the diesel engine originating out of Palestine. In April, the steam train will originate out of Palestine with the Diesel making runs from Rusk.

State railroad tickets for the special runs for the Texas Dogwood Trails Celebration are still available. Interested parties can call (903) 683-2561 for ticket information.

The 69th annual Texas Dogwood Trails Celebration in Palestine will begin this weekend. The event is planned for March 24-25, March 31-April 1 and April 8-9.

A dogwood parade is planned for Saturday, which is an all-day arts and crafts show in downtown and Old Town Palestine. There will be vendors and artists, musical entertainment and food.

Among the first day events

will be Cars of Palestine 22nd annual car show from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and a performance of "Calamity Jane" at the Texas Theater. The show will run through April 1.

Weekend two will feature the Palestine Old Time Music and Dulcimer Festival at the Museum for East Texas Culture, March 29-31. The Dogwood Trails Home and Garden/Business expo will be from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. March 31. There will be a bike tour beginning at 7:30 p.m. March 31 and a Texas Art Depot showing of the painting, "Reagan Park," by Janet Staples with the artist on hand from 2-4 p.m. March 31.

Weekend three will offer on April 7 'Embrace the Arts' tour with varied exhibits at five locations from 6-9 p.m.; Veranda Views of Palestine at 2 p.m.;



Dogwood blossoms are opening just in time for the annual Dogwood Trails Celebration in Palestine. Extra runs are planned at the Texas State Railroad, and many of the trips are already full.

and a gospel music concert from 2-4 p.m.

Additional activities planned for the festival will include

open house at Howard House Museum; a Critter Hoe-Down, sponsored by the Humane Society; additional gospel music;

tours of Sacred Heart Church; and self guided tours of Davey Dogwood Park, Elmwood Gardens and historic Palestine.

RUSK JUNIOR HIGH HONOR ROLLS

All A Honor Roll

Sixth grade: Jansen Applegate, Juliann Bowling, Kathryn Campbell, Kaitlyn Cowan, Brittany George, Reece Goldsberry, Sean Hamilton, Trey Hamilton, Justice Johnson, Andrea Knowlton and Sydney Littlejohn

Seventh grade: Delesa Bradley, Luke Campbell, Tori Choate, Jasmine Clemons, Kailan Counahan, Paige Fincher, Kasey Finley, Elizabeth Friederich, Traneisha Hunter, Savannah Lemon, Aleigha Mabry, Chelsea McNair, Anne Melton, Chase Rice, Dakota Stewart, Sydney Wacker and Kristen Woods

Eighth grade: Kaitlyn Acker, Dylan Brown Pruitt, Austin Davis, Morgan Ford, Lisa Frauenberger, Amanda Gilchrest, Colton Kadlecek, Lori Kennedy-Walley, Jordan Magruder, Thomas Marchetti, Brittany Mitchell, Michael Nickle, Paige Penn, Shelby Perry, Ashlee Shidler, Jimmy Stingley, Cheyanne Tullis, Elizabeth Werner, Mallory Westbrook and Allison Whitton

A-B Honor Roll

Sixth grade: Angela Aleander,

Valeria Alvarado, Meaghan Barber, Lindie Bryant, Denice Cardoso, Ge'Nesis Castillo, Lainie Cockrum, Andria Collins, Michael Crews, Tanner Crippen, Keshannon Dearman, Quani-sha Dearman, Caleb Dover, Jim Bob Dyke, Jessica Enriquez, Aaron Ford, Darren Franklin, Raven Hunter, Autumn Jamail, Layne Johnson-Hassell, Chasidy Lankford, Justin Largent, Meghan Lestina, Samantha Loya, Amantha McClure, Marie Mecillas, Sarah Mims, Jeremy Mosley, David Overstreet, Aaron Patterson, Courtney Phillips, Luke Prosize, Albina Quezada, Jhoan Quezada, Michael Roberts, Raya Sanford, Arlene Session, Taylor Shewmake, Kaitlyn Sprayberry, Kody Stanley, Reagan Stanley, Caleb Summers, Lauren Talancon, Jacob Tylich, Anayely Villegas, Drew Walley, Haily Welch, Elias Whitaker, Lauren Wolfe, Christopher Wood and Emily Yancey.

Seventh grade: Stephanie Atkins, Roosevelt Birmingham, Kailey Burriss, Erika Chancellor, Aisha Cheeks, Ryesha Cook, Troas Crow, Tyler Daniels, Jade Dyess, Michael Eckerman, Carli Foster, Ashley George,

Austin Gipson, Briana Guel, Rebecca Hawkins, Matthew Heidel, Saydid Hernandez, Samantha Jones, Kristen Kirkpatrick, Kimberly Langston, JT Lindsey, Cristyan Loredo, Krystal Mathis, Breanna McIntyre, Elaine Melton, Katherine Montgomery, Kristian Morin, Alexis Pardue, Jacob Raiborn, Amber Rice, Ray Rosales, Cassie Tankersley, Tori Taylor, Matthew Thompson, Briana Tipton, Trey Tosh, Jacob Vela, Chance Wallis and Dyllan Wood

Eighth grade: Andres Alvarado, Andrew Crump, Jimmie Lynn Dement, Michael Derrett, Hayley Dyke, Renee Favart, Issac Flores, Linda Gluck, Joshua Goodman, Kelsey Greene, Kendrieka Hart, Priscilla Hernandez, April Hunter, Camisha Hunter, Holly Lewis, Drew Linville, Michael Lloyd, Kimberly Melton, Elizabeth Morgan, Lonesha Mosley, Kristi Noland, Jesus Ochoa, Rebecca Oetting, Raysha Sadler, Kevin Stidham, Alexandria Thompson, Steven Torres, Randall Upshaw, Silvia Vences, David Walker, Maranda Westbrook, Heidi Whitaker, Taylor Wilkerson and Calah Williams.

Mother Frances Hospital named in nation's top 100

Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler has been named a Top 100 Hospitals National Benchmarks for Success winner by Solucient®. The 14th edition of the Solucient 100 Top Hospitals: National Benchmarks for Success study objectively identifies hospitals that are the highest performers in the nation. The award recognizes hospitals that have achieved excellence in clinical outcomes, patient safety, financial performance, efficiency, and growth in patient volume.

Mother Frances Hospital was recognized as one of 20 large community hospitals in the U.S. to earn the distinction and one of only two in Texas in this category.

"The 100 Top Hospitals designation is a tribute to our physicians, clinicians and employees

who have worked diligently to significantly elevate the quality and efficiency of health care at Mother Frances Hospital," said Lindsey Bradley, FACHE, president, Trinity Mother Frances Health System. "It has taken many years of focus and dedication to achieve this designation and we are very proud."

The hospital Center for Advanced Surgery and Technology includes robotic surgery, heart catheterization labs and other technological capabilities found at few other places in the country.

The National Benchmarks for Success annual study identifies the nation's top organization-wide performers, using the two most recent years of data. The study uses a balanced scorecard approach, centered on several

key organization-wide measures including risk-adjusted mortality, risk-adjusted complications, risk-adjusted patient safety, core measures score, and growth in patient volume.

According to Solucient, The 100 Top Hospitals® have higher survival rates, keep more patients complication-free and attract more patients. Solucient estimates that if all Medicare inpatients received the same level of care as those in the 100 Top Hospitals winners: more than 100,000 additional patients would survive each year; more than 114,000 patient complications would be avoided annually; expenses would decline by an aggregate \$10.9 billion a year; and the average patient stay would decrease by more than half a day.

RUSK INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

A Honor Roll

Fourth grade: Kaylie Arnwine, Alyssa Ballew, Erin Beckworth, Kelly Brislow, Stephan Clay, Jorday Curtis, Drew Dorsey, David Enriquez, Bailee Gates, David Harper, Elizabeth Heidel, Rebekah Heidel, Justin Hunt, Velmasha Jefferson, Brittany Kellis, Sydna Long, Jenny Sue Magruder, Dalton Mason, Jonathan Monk, Zachary Morgan, Rance Morrison, Berenice Santiago, Hailey Stanford, Kalli-Jo Stanley, Nicholas Swearingen, Emily Thompson, Kaitlin Tugwell and Javier Villa

Fifth grade: Margaret Beckworth, Kelsey Blankinship, Jade Buckley, Tristan Collins, Ashlea Crosby, Chelsey Daniels, Justin Daugherty, Brianna Day, Jaclynn Dyess, Erin Flowers, Aaron Foxworth, Aaron Franks, Shelby Frauenberger, Justo Hernandez, Joshua Herring, Amy Holcomb, Kara Huggins, Jessica Marugg, Morgan Miller, Carlos Santiago, Vijay Stingley, Shayla Townsend, Madison Turner, Tierra Turner, Gabino Villa and Kayla Woodlee

A-B Honor Roll

Fourth grade: Hope Adams, Stephan Alexander, Michelle Avant, Tyler Bachmeyer, Kaitlyn Banks, Dustin Berry, Brittany Brawley, Eric Byfield, Samantha Cantrell, Lena Cheeks, Taylor Clark, Odessa Collins, Candace Corley, Alexis Davis, Symira Dearman, Hayden Dewbre, Mackinly Dover, Matthew Dover, Makenzi Foster, Nathan Fought, Ski Fought, Deserea Garner, Kody Gayle, Anjelica Gonzalez, Daniel Guillen, Tresa Hassell, Brayden Huddleston, Alyssa Isaacs, James Johnson, Hunter Joyner, Skyler King, Cole Lawson, Carlus Lewis, Daisy Little, Jace Lusk, Ty Mabry, Kayla McGraw, Jerry McIntyre, Matthew Mele, Dalton Melecio, Dillan Mello, Troy Metten, Nicole Miller, Lisa Mott, Rachel Myers, Brianna Nevil, Elizabeth Norman, Joshua Odom, Bryan Paddock, Jeannette Parker, Gage Parker, Ashlynn Petty, Alexandria Pope and Allison Potter, Amanda Potter, Joshua Raiborn, Jenniea Session, Lucas Shidler, Kenkade Snyder, Dylan Starkey, Preston Still, Cheyenne

Stinson, Sarah Summers, Nolan Thompson, Blake Walley, Tyler Wilkerson and Samantha Yancey

Fifth grade: Casey Abernathy, Mal-lory Allsbrooks, Octavian Arrington, Samuel Beavers, Jesse Benge, Jordan Bishop, Ethan Brown, Emilee Caldwell, Jeremy Cheney, Kyleigh Christopher, David Correa, Hayden Curl, Rickesh Desai, Brandon Fincher, Larry Ford, Ray Foreman, Cameron Franks, Stephanie George, Chase Goodwin, Colton Greene, Johnita Griffith, Alyssa Hacker, Taylor Hamilton, Bre'Ann Higgins, Bobby Jamail, Kadeja Jefferson, Amanda Jones, Bryce Jones, Chelsey Jones, Timothy Langston, Lauren Lankford, Ty Mason, Caitlyn McManus, Gray Moore, Destinee Morris, Michael Murray, Lacie Pardue, Kaleb Pruitt, Austin Rasberry, Destiny Rawlinson, Cheyenne Roach, Jesus Rodriguez, John Rogers, Ariana Rossa, Micah Russell, Michael Sexton, Jonathan Short, Jadarrian Skinner, Chase Stanley, Adam Thompson, Dylan Thompson, Joseph Vaughn, Logan Walley, Tristan Williams and Gabriela Willis

ALTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Distinguished Honor Roll

Kindergarten: Jamiya Cleaver, Jade Dickson, Mason Griffith, Richard Moreno, Samantha Morris, Halley Rodriguez, Corbin Threadgill, Tristan Chidester, Kaylee Chometa, Martin Crux, Sha'Kara Davis, Lacie Greer, Alexandria Griffin, Lane Jackson, Sunny Larabell

Also, Sebastian Lopez, Javonette Mumphrey, Emily Palmer, Elizabeth Serrano, Tyler Bradford, Iyauna Bruton, Hadie Crux, Reagan Davis, Liliana Gonzalez, Ivan Gonzalez, Devin Guinn, Michael Lopez, DaVeion McDuff, Gerardo Olvera, Hazel Rogers, Jessie Silcox, Erik Ubaldo and Ke'Astra Woodson

First Grade: Jacy Howell, Brandon Moorman, Suemichell Guerrero, Sarah Murdock, Dustin Young, Carric McDon-ald, Lexi Simmons, Samya Mitchell, Molly Callaway, Bethani Lindsey, Samantha Moreno and Macy Russo

Second Grade: Clay Anderson, Cindy Garcia, Reagan Ragland,

Vanessa Salgado, Laney Black, Mikkah Hackett, Kaylynn Hinson, Victoria Rowe, Jackie Wallace, Alyssa Duplichain, Jared Johnson, Lee Ellen Pearman and Jordan Skinner

Third Grade: Anne Cox, Wade Grogan, Creager Davis, Alexxa Russo, Kade Dixon, Holly Davis, Kynzie Germany and Laura Lopez

Fourth Grade: Jennifer Gonzalez, Caitlin Morris and Taylor Lewis

Regular Honor

Kindergarten: Cinthya Lopez, Celeste Rangel, Tionna Richardson, Sergio Soto, Victor Vasquez, Jessie Anderson, Yesica Gonzalez, Jada Johnson, Flor Itzel Santiago, Hunter Nicholson, Jose Vasquez, Riley Birdwell, Megan Crawford, Quaid Davis, Valeria Ramirez and Carolina Rios

First Grade: Hunter Bush, Natalie Cervantes, LaTavis Green, Kyana Hart,

Kaylee Johnson, Colby Peters, Sierra Richardson, Mia Skinner, Radedrick Woodson, Darrion Blakemore, Enrique Guerrero.

Also, Jamiacus Johnson, Antonio Castillo, Fabiola Castillo, Arlet Castro, Riley Tramel, Fatima Castillo, Trent Faver, Dalton Fletcher and Daylon Guinn

Second Grade: Emanuel Beltran, Calista Lytle, Cecil Finley, Macaela Patton, Emilio Soto, Kade Griffith, Allee Jones, Jasmin Vasquez, Kalyn Chan, Krystal Garcia, Iyuanna Hackney, Cam'ron Matthews, Addison Peacock, Peyton Smith and Jose Tellez

Third Grade: Jakari Blakemore, Destinie Martin, Marleni Gonzales, Jana Hudson, Cody Carter, Caroline Cox, Hope Davis, Jordan Hall, Miranda McKinney, Ricardo Castillo, Sidney Haynes, Kordell Martin and Dakota Young

Fourth Grade: Jocelyn Bradford, Troy Johnson, Eduardo Beltran, Keenan Esco and Paige Childs.

NEWS

Rusk State Hospital governing body meets

The Governing Body of Rusk State Hospital will meet at the hospital Thursday, March 22 beginning at 9 a.m. in the Quality Management Department, Building 501, Austin Room.

The governing body meets each year to accept written and verbal reports presented by the hospital administration.

At the beginning of this meeting, the public is invited to make comments relevant to the management of the hospital. Persons wanting to be on the public forum portion of the meeting can contact the office of the Rusk State Hospital superintendent, (903) 683-7297 to be placed on the public forum agenda. Public comments are limited to three minutes per person. The remainder of the governing body meeting will begin after public comments have been made

and will not be open to the public. Rusk State Hospital is a facility of the Texas Department of State Health Services and serves 33 East Texas counties. Visit the hospital's web site at www.state.tx.us/mhhospitals/RuskSH/

VFW Auxiliary plan patriotic writing contest

The Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 3406 in Rusk is the sponsor of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Awards. This program was developed in 1978 and these awards should encourage high school students to use their artistic talents to express their patriotism while becoming eligible for funds to further their education.

Students must be in grades 9-12 and must attend school in the same state as the sponsoring Auxiliary. Home schooled students are eligible. National awards include first prize, \$10,000;

second prize; and third prize, \$2,500. Local auxiliary awards include first place, \$100 U. S. Savings Bond; \$50.00 second place, \$50 savings bond; and third place, a \$25 Savings Bond. Also there will be an award for the first place winner in the state of Texas in the amount of \$500. Applications with further information may be obtained from the local auxiliary chairman, Bobby Burroughs (936) 867-5731 or auxiliary president, Kim Nickle (903) 683-5985.

Entry deadline is March 29. There is no theme, just patriotic.

County-wide clean-up day slated for April 21

Cherokee County Commissioners have slated a county-wide clean-up day for Saturday, April 21. Dumpsters will be available at all four county barns and at the Cherokee County Airport from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sites will be monitored

by county personnel.

Alzheimer's support group meets 1st Thursday

The Alzheimer's support group local alliance meets at noon on the first Thursday of the month at Southern Cherokee Federal Credit Union in Rusk. Lunch will be provided by Lexington Place, formerly Oak Park Care Center. For more information call Liz at (903) 683-5438.

Eagle cards go on sale

The Rusk High School Junior Class is offering Eagle Cards for sale. Eagle Cards can be purchased for \$10 from any member of the class. The Eagle Card is a discount card that is good for one year. Profits from the sale of the Eagle Cards are used for the junior-senior prom. For more information call Rusk High School at (903) 683-5401.

RUSK LIBRARY STUDY CLUB

Program on Washington presented at club meeting

By BETTY TOWNSEND
 SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

Thirteen members of the club met on Feb. 13 at First Presbyterian Church in Rusk. Presenter for this meeting was club vice-president Ollie Parrott, who read a biographical sketch of George Washington. It was a tribute to the first president, who was known as the "Father of His Country." He truly earned the title: he fought for this young nation and helped to set up a wise and strong government.

Washington held three important positions; the first was commander-in-chief of the first American Army. The second was president of the Constitutional Convention, which made laws to guide in forming the new nation. The third, of course, was president of the

newly formed United States. He served two four year terms, then returned to his beloved home, Mount Vernon, where he lived the remainder of his life farming and improving his home. He died in the year of 1799.

Some unusual and little known facts about Washington include the fact that he was the only American president who did not reside in the White House. He was the first person to wear false teeth made of rhinoceros ivory. He was the only president inaugurated in two cities, New York City in 1789 and Philadelphia in 1793. Washington did not sign the Declaration of Independence and he received no salary while serving as president.

Appreciation was expressed to Mrs. Parrott for the interesting and informative reading honoring George Washington.