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THE CHAMBER CONNECTION

October 2009

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Giddings Area Chamber of Commerce, 171 E. Hempstead, Giddings, Texas 78942
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**RURAL
TEXAS**
TOURISM CENTER

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DEDICATION CEREMONY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009
11:00AM
GIDDINGS, TEXAS

The Rural Texas Tourism Center, located at Landmark Square in Giddings, Texas, will officially open to the public on October 17th, 2009.

- The restored Union Pacific Freight & Passenger Depot, circa late 1800's is home to the Union Station Transportation Museum & the Rural Texas Tourism Center
- An official dedication ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, October 17th @ 11:00 a.m. with Texas tourism agencies & officials participating
- Rural communities from across Texas will be participants for the dedication and as ongoing partners in the Rural Texas Tourism Center that will showcase the character, history and culture of rural Texas
- Two days of festivities will compliment the official dedication: Friday will offer educational field trip opportunities for students; Friday & Saturday: senior citizens will present local & transportation history; storytellers from around Texas will participate in retelling the history of Texas & Texas transportation as Texas tourism agencies present demonstrations & displays; Rural Texas partners will offer their rural community's history & "can't miss" tourism opportunities
- The event will offer two days of festivities including food, refreshments, music & family activities to compliment tourism & historical presentations by rural communities & tourism agencies from all across Texas
- Saturday's festivities will feature a Texas beef "STEAKholders Cookoff"
- The two day event will be scheduled annually as a fundraiser for the Rural Texas Tourism Center in Landmark Square - Giddings, Texas
- Rural Texas communities and tourism agencies are invited to participate in the two days of festivities and be partners in the Rural Texas Tourism Center
- The official web site ruraltexas tourism.org will showcase participating rural communities, events and venues and offer Partner web site packages and advertising opportunities
- The services of the Rural Texas Tourism Center will be offered through Giddings Economic Development Corporation however sponsorship and participation opportunities are available

- Don't miss out on this "ULTIMATE RURAL TEXAS TOURISM INITIATIVE"

Sponsorship and participation for the Rural Texas Tourism Center dedication event is open to all Rural Texas Tourism Partners.

www.ruraltexas tourism.org
jmbise@giddings.net (979) 542-2067 fay@giddings.net (979) 542-2018

2009-2010 Chamber Board of Directors

Carol Bennett
Debbie Schkade
Fay Iselt
Gene Parker
Jim Bunch
Tricia Kalmbach
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Kim Fritsche
Buster Ramsey
Marcia Herndon
Lucy Liu
Mark Johnson
Maurice Pitts
Michael Kuhrt
Nancy Gandy
Paul Kipp
Thelma Davis
Vern Surman
Wendy Frazier

Comptroller Susan Combs to Evaluate Public Schools' Academic Accountability and Financial Data

(AUSTIN) — In an effort to improve academic achievement and encourage more effective use of public education dollars, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs will conduct a study of school district resource allocation practices that contribute to high academic achievement and cost-effective operations. The study is required by House Bill 3 enacted by the 81st Legislature.

“Public education spending will continue to grow as our population increases and as state policymakers recognize the important role our schools play in preparing the work force necessary for a strong economy,” Combs said. “This study will be a complete analysis of what schools are spending and their academic outcomes.”

The Comptroller will use the resources and expertise of the Education Research Center at the University of Texas – Dallas, the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University’s Bush School of Government and Public Service. The Texas Education Agency, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, school superintendents, outside experts and other education stakeholders will also contribute to the study.

“To make this study cost effective, we will use data that exists at the Education Research Center at the University of Texas – Dallas,” Combs said. “School districts will have access to our results free of charge. I look forward to sharing our results and methodology through a publicly accessible Web site. We are committed to assisting our public schools and improving statewide academic achievement by identifying financial efficiency and best practices.”

HB3 requires the Comptroller to evaluate existing academic accountability and financial data by integrating the data; to rank the results of the evaluation to identify the relative performance of districts and campuses; and to identify potential areas for district and campus improvement. The legislation also requires the Comptroller to evaluate the operating cost for each student, the operating cost for each program and the staffing cost for each student.

Combs said the study will be a cutting-edge state project serving the public interest, for the benefit of all Texans. The study is expected to be completed in late 2010, before the next legislative session.

MASTER NATIONAL RETRIEVER CLUB ANNUAL EVENT

The old adage, “You haven’t been hunting until you’ve hunted with a well trained retriever” will take on a new meaning this fall in the Giddings area. Beginning October 19 and concluding on November 1, a large influx of people from all over the United States bringing over 365 of the most talented retrievers in the country will be here to attempt to qualify their dogs at the 2009 Master National Retriever Hunting Tests. The event will include opening ceremonies at the Fireman’s Park, the club’s annual meeting and a meeting of the dog’s handlers with the judges who will score the dog’s performances at the American Legion Hall plus assorted other meetings.

The event is licensed by the American Kennel Club (AKC) and began in 1991. It is held annually in a different region of the country; last year it was in Minnesota and next year it will be in California. The Master National Retriever Club (MNRC) is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff whose mission is to hold an annual event that will showcase the talents of hunting retrievers. The Master National Retriever Hunting Tests (MNRHT) are conducted under the rules and regulations of the AKC Hunt Test Program.

To qualify to enter the event, a dog must pass five out of seven master hunter tests, or a total of 8 passes, conducted by one or more of the one hundred and sixty clubs that are members of the MNRC across the country. To successfully complete this year’s event, dogs will be tested on four basic talents; their ability to mark the fall of a bird; their perseverance in overcoming obstacles when going to retrieve the bird; their style in the performance; and their training showing response, control and steadiness. Usually, the dogs are tested in five to seven different scenarios. Any retriever authorized by the AKC and has completed the entry requirements is eligible to enter the event. Retriever breeds approved by AKC include Labrador, Golden, Chesapeake Bay, Flatcoat, Water Spaniel, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling, Curly Coat and Standard Poodle.

The field events will be held October 25 thru November 1 on Roger and Kaye Fuller’s K.C. Beefmaster’s Bluff Creek Ranch outside Manheim, Texas. Roger was one of the four judges at the 2004 MNRHT held in Wisconsin and has dogs entered in this year’s event. Waterloo Amateur Retriever Club

in Austin is the local, host club for the event and WARC president, Rick Greer, and his fellow members have worked closely with Denice Harlan at the Giddings Chamber of Commerce and Joyce Bise with the Giddings Economic Development in Giddings to prepare for the event. The event is open to the public as long as each signs a waiver release.

The economic impact of the event on the region is estimated to be in excess of \$2.5 million. Motels, food service establishments, fuel stations, and many other businesses will benefit from Giddings being the focal point of these events.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Tuesday, October 6th-**

- Walk-In Coffee and Bake Sale at First United Methodist Church, 279 E. Monroe. Lots of yummy goodies and great gift items.
- National Night Out on the Courthouse Lawn from 6-8PM. Sponsored by the Chamber and the Giddings Police Department. Contact the Chamber to have a booth or to participate.

**Wednesday, October 7th-**

- Lee County Area Farmer's Market from 3-6PM at Lee County General Store. Every Wednesday in October.

**Thursday, October 8th-**

- Lee County Heritage Society General Membership Meeting at 5:30PM. The public is invited to attend. There will be tours and a light supper in the Eleanor Cottage.

**Saturday, October 10th-**

- Lee County Area Farmer's Market from 3-6PM at Lee County General Store. Every Saturday in October.

**Tuesday, October 13th-**

- Giddings Study Club Chicken Spaghetti Luncheon at Immanuel Lutheran Fellowship Hall from 11AM to 1PM. Tickets available from Study Club members \$7.
- Pink Ribbon Affair at the American Legion Hall from 5:30-8:30PM. Art Bra Contest, Style Show, Booths, Live & Silent Auctions, Door Prizes, Quilt Drawing, Breast Cancer Remembrance Candle Lighting Event. Public is invited. Contact Lee County Area Cancer Resource Center for info-979-540-2981.

**Saturday, October 17th-**

- Rural Texas Tourism Center Dedication Ceremony at the Old Kieschnick Feed Store. Join us for the dedication ceremony at 11AM. Arts & Crafts, Music, Steak Holders BBQ Cook-Off, Tours and much, much more. 289 W. Railroad, Giddings, Texas. Contact for Info - Fay at 979-542-2018.

**Tuesday, October 20th-**

- Regular Chamber Board of Directors Meeting at Citizens National Bank at Noon. Members welcome.

**Friday, October 23rd-**

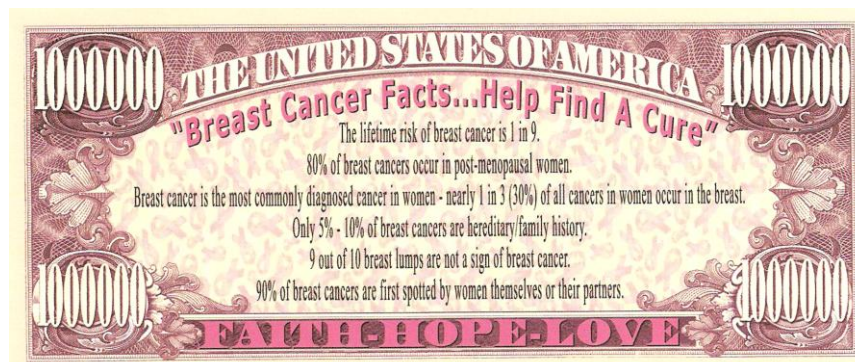
- Master Nationals Hunt/Test Retriever Competition-Opening Night Events: National competition to be held for the first time in Giddings. 368 Dogs from all over the country will be here for two weeks competing in these finals.

**Sunday, October 25th-**

- St. Margaret's Catholic Church Fall Festival, serving at 11AM. Auctions, food, games and fun.
- Sight Night - Leo Club Eyeglass Collection Door to Door Trick or Treat for used eyeglasses.

**Monday, October 26th-**

- Monthly Texas Word Wrangler Festival Committee Meeting at Noon at the Giddings Public Library.





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## OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

**Chamber Luncheon – October 16<sup>th</sup> at Los Patrones Mexican Grill:** We host a once monthly Chamber Luncheon for members. These luncheons are designed to be networking opportunities for members while creating and fostering the fellowship aspect of belonging to a membership organization. Your greatest asset in business is your relationship with your customers or potential customers you may encounter at Chamber luncheons, Ribbon Cuttings, Open Houses and After Hours Mixers. We meet at Los Patrones Mexican Grill from 11:30 to 1:00pm. Space is limited. Call to reserve your seats. Sponsored by Capital One Bank-Giddings.

**Thank you to our Board of Directors!**

**We now accept credit card payments for chamber membership dues, sponsorships, tickets and advertising. We want to help make your life easier by providing you with great service.**

Check out our website at [www.GiddingsTx.com](http://www.GiddingsTx.com) to get up to the minute information and details about upcoming events and activities happening in Giddings and Lee County. We are your information resource. Email: [giddingscofc@verizon.net](mailto:giddingscofc@verizon.net)  
Office Phone: 979-542-3455 or Fax: 979-542-7060. [www.GiddingsTx.com](http://www.GiddingsTx.com).

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Levern's Car Detailing- Levern, owner: 437 W. Austin, Giddings, Texas. Phone: 512-284-2545 or 979-325-9129.**  
Professional 100% Full Detail, cars, trucks, boats, washing, waxing, buffing. Thursday- Ladies Day Discount, Wednesday-Senior Citizen Discount.

**Zip Distribution- Al Hedtke and Jimmy Boriack, owners: 924 E. Austin, Giddings, Texas. Phone: 512-923-9990**  
Zip Distribution is an agent of Zip, Click & Save of Giddings. Providing Always Free Advertising plus other benefits to businesses to support local economies and provide fundraisers for non-profit or civic organizations.

**Texas Trash & Treasures-Linda Hamilton, owner: 107 E. Thigpen, Carmine, Texas 78932: Phone: 423-502-1374**  
Metal Artists Linda & Richard Hamilton, invite you to experience their fun, whimsical, must see store in Carmine. Unusual folk & junk art .You are sure to leave with a smile!

**New Beginnings Event Planning Services-Latonya Cooper, Coordinator: Phone: 512-695-4319**  
Weddings, business functions, theme events.

**Giddings Hermann Sons Lodge 54: Non-Profit Organization, 1031 CR 223, Giddings, Texas. Phone: 512-332-0841.**  
Sons of Hermann, 148 years of Friendship, Love and Loyalty.