



Nueces Master Gardener Gazette

Nueces County, Texas



The mission of the association shall be to organize and promote volunteer efforts that support the AgriLife Extension programs that are advancing sound horticultural practices in Nueces County (nueces.agrilife.org)

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2021 NMG LEADERSHIP

President-Vince Muscarello
 VP 1-Mary Helen Johnston
 VP 2-Linda Lamprecht
 VP 3-Sandra Williams
 At Large-Gloria VanZante
 Secretary-Betty Whitt
 Treasurer-Leigh Green
 Treasurer Elect Pro Tem-
 Norma Hernandez
 State Directors-
 Mary Lambert & Elva Steiner
 Alternates-
 Alene Burch & Huxley Smith
 Extension Agent-Kevin Gibbs
 Past President-Beth Spirko

The Saturday, 10/9/21 NMG Plant Sale Fundraiser was a BLAST!



Detailed Results in Next Gazette

Tuesday, November 2nd

**8 Propositions to
Amend the Texas
Constitution are on
the Ballot**





**MONTHLY
BOARD
MEETING**

Next Meeting: Monday, Oct 25, 2021

Via Zoom Only—check your email for invitation

6 - 7:30 P.M.—Board Meeting

*Interns & NMGs are welcome to attend,
but not participate, and earn 1.5 Volunteer Hours
VMS Project Code **NMG—MTGS***

4th MON

**MONTHLY
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Oct 26, 2021

****In-Person Meeting @ Garden Sr. Center****

5325 Greely Dr., Corpus Christi, TX

Via Zoom —check your email for invitation

6 - 7:30 P.M.—General Meeting

(now 90 minutes for questions & discussion)

Minutes from Last Meeting

4th TUES

**MONTHLY
CONTINUING
EDUCATION**

Next Class: Tuesday, Nov 2, 2021

**Via Zoom Only: (Project Code: CE-ONLINE)
check your email for invitation**

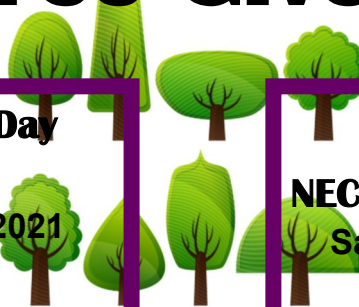
6 - 7:00 P.M.—CE Presentation

Culinary Herbs-Cindy @ The Herb Cottage

****DOOR PRIZES!****

1st TUES

Earn Volunteer Hours at 2 Tree Give-Aways



Port Aransas Arbor Day

Tree Give-Away

Saturday October 23, 2021

Arrive @ 8:00 am

Event is 9am—12pm

UT Marine Science Institute

750 Channel View Dr.

Port Aransas, TX ([map](#))

Contact [Vince & Rae](#) to sign up

NEC Arbor Day Tree Give-Away

Saturday November 5, 2021

9am—12pm

14353 Cooperative Ave

Robstown, TX ([map](#)).

Contact [Beth Spirko](#) to sign up

ANNOUNCING THE NOMINEES

for NMG LEADERSHIP 2022:

President: Mary Helen Johnston

First Vice President: Linda Lamprect

Second Vice President: Gloria Van Zante

Third Vice President: Elva Steiner

Member at Large: Conchis Villafranca

Treasurer: Leigh Green

Treasurer Elect: Renée Brown

Secretary: Sandra Williams

State Director: Mary Lambert (yr 2)

State Director: Mary Johnson (yr 1)

State Director Alt: Huxley Smith (yr 2)

State Director Alt: Liz Yzaguirre (yr 1)

Election Will Be Held During November Membership Meeting

**Thank you Nominating Committee
& Chairwoman [Beth Spirko](#)!!**



OCTOBER

10/19 Gloria VanZante -class 25

10/27 Edith Gonzalez -class 30

NOVEMBER

11/5 Bev Hoffman -class 31

11/8 Gina Sanchez-class 28

11/15 Sophia Flores -class 28



❖ **NO ONE** has been found to serve as the Gazette editor. Are there 2-3 co-editors willing to work together to continue our organization's newsletter in January 2022? If not the Gazette will cease to be published for a minimum of 6 months if not indefinitely. Express your creativity & help keep the NMGs updated! Contact Kelly Denson gazette.nuecesmg@gmail.com

❖ Mentors still needed for Interns Needed! Connect our newest recruits & keep them involved throughout training! Email [Sandra Williams](mailto:Sandra.Williams) or call 945.2978

❖ Earn volunteer hours being a NMG Telephone Tree caller. Contact Linda Lamprecht vms.nuecesmg@gmail.com

❖ [Renee Brown](#) still has un-adopted rose beds. Two volunteers per rose bed is ideal to trim the roses and keep the bed weeded. Call/Text 361.443.2719

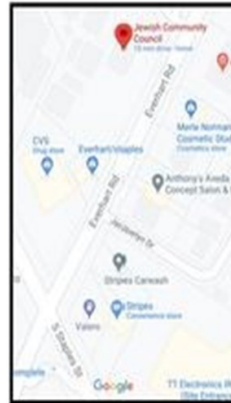
Plant & Yard Art Sale

Saturday, October 9, 2021 9:00a.m.-2:00p.m.

Home Grown & Made by your Local
Nueces County Master Gardeners



Location: Jewish Community Center
750 Everhart Rd, Corpus Christi, TX



Xeriscape Plants
Native Plants
Texas Superstars
Fall Bedding Plants
Perennials, Succulents,
House Plants, Yard Art ,
Vendors & SO MUCH
MORE!!!!



Find us:



Join us:



Website: <https://txmg.org/nueces>

Facebook: [Nueces Master Gardeners](#)



Helping Here.

NMGs

2021 NMG Plant Sale Pics!



**More Pics in
Next Gazette...**

NMG CALENDAR

Nueces Master Gardener Meetings/Events

- ♦ Tues 10/26/21 **Monthly Nueces Master Gardener Meeting** **in-Person meeting** or via Zoom (see [page 2](#) for details)
- ♦ Friday 11/5/21 Submissions Due for Gazette (articles, pictures, etc.) Send to: gazette.nuecesmg@gmail.com
- ♦ Tues 11/23/21 **Monthly Nueces Master Gardener Meeting** via Zoom (see [page 2](#) for details) **May Change due to Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday**

Horticulture Therapy Institute [Newsletter](#)

National Audubon Society [Publications](#)

National Gardening Assoc [Weekly Newsletters](#)

Nueces 4-H Clover Chronicles [Monthly Newsletters](#)

South Texas Chapter-Texas Master Naturalist [Newsletters](#)

TCEQ-Take Care of Texas [Publications](#)

Texas Nursery & Landscape Assoc [Publications](#)

Texas Gardener Magazine [Current Issue](#)

Texas Master Gardener [October 2021 Newsletter](#)

Texas Chapter ISA (Int'l Society of Arboriculture) [Newsletters](#)

ATTRA/NCAT Sustainable Agriculture— [Newsletters](#)





2021 Master Gardener Trainee Class Schedule



Orientation	7/19/2021 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Review of Schedule, expectations, and paperwork	Nueces Master Gardeners and Kevin Gibbs CEA Horticulture	Virtual - Zoom
Week 1 Aug 2-7	8/2/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Intro/Overview MG Committees Overviews	Nueces Master Gardeners Project Gardeners Project Chairs, Betty Rogers & Kevin Gibbs	Virtual - Zoom
	8/7/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Plant Science/Botany	Dr. Michael Womack, Exec. Dir. South Texas Botanical Gardens	Virtual - Zoom
Week 2 Aug 9-14	8/9/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Plant Science/Botany	Dr. Michael Womack, Exec. Dir. South Texas Botanical Gardens	Virtual - Zoom
	8/14/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Plant Science/Botany Lab	Carol Krank Nueces Master Gardener	South Texas Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples, CC, Tx 78413
Week 3 Aug 16-21	8/16/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Soils & Fertility/Composting	Jason Ott, CEA Ag and Natural Resources, Nueces County	Virtual - Zoom
	8/21/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Soils/Composting Lab	Deb Holliday Nueces Master Gardener	South Texas Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples, CC, Tx 78413
Week 4 Aug 23-28	8/23/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Plant Diseases/Pathology	Dr. Kimberly Cochran Extension Plant Pathologist	Virtual - Zoom
	8/28/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Diseases/Plant Pathology Lab	Beth Spirko, Nueces MG	South Texas Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples, CC, Tx 78413
Week 5 Aug 30 - Sept 4	8/30/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Weeds	Dr. Joshua McGinty, Texas A&M AgriLife	Virtual - Zoom
	9/4/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Weeds Lab	Grace Lopez, South Texas Master Naturalists	South Texas Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples, CC, Tx 78413
Week 6 Sept 7-11	9/7/21 Tuesday 6:30pm-8:30pm	IPM/Entomology	Kate Harrell, CEA Integrated Pest Man- agement	Virtual - Zoom
	9/11/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Entomology Lab	Beth Spirko, Nueces Master Gardeners	South Texas Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples, CC, Tx 78413
Week 7 Sept 13-18	9/13/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Trees	Bill Green, Texas A&M Forest Service	Virtual - Zoom
	9/18/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Tree ID Lab	Bill Green Texas A&M Forest Service and Kevin Gibbs, CEA Horticulture	City Parks – carpooling and walking
Week 8 Sept 20-25	9/20/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Herbaceous and Tropical Plants	Kevin Gibbs, CEA Horticulture	Virtual - Zoom
	9/25/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Herbaceous and Tropical Plants Lab	Kevin Gibbs, CEA Horticulture, Nueces Mas- ter Gardeners	South Texas Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples, CC, Tx 78413
Week 9 Sept 27- Oct 2	9/27/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Turfgrass Management	Michael Potter, CEA Horticulture, Montgom- ery County	Virtual - Zoom
	10/2/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Grasses Lab	Field Trip to Turfco Grass farms	Turfco Grass Farms, 3521 CR 48, Rob- stown, Texas 78380
Week 10 Oct 4-6	10/4/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Fruit Crops/Pomology	Dr. Larry Stein, Associate Dept. Head/ Professor & Ext. Agronomist Specialist	Virtual - Zoom
	10/6/21 Wednesday 6:00pm-7:00pm	Fruit Crops Lab	David Nuss, Exec Dir. GROW Local South Texas	Downtown Farmers Market
Week 11 Oct 11-16	10/11/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Home Vegetable Gardening	Dr. Juan Anciso, Professor & Extension Vege- table Specialist	Virtual - Zoom
	10/16/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Vegetable Lab	Norma Hernandez, Mary Lambert, Carol Barragy and Mary Sherwood	South Texas Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples, CC, Tx 78413
Week 12 Oct 18-23	10/18/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Palms	Ginger Easton-Smith, CEA, Aransas	Virtual - Zoom
	10/23/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Field Trip/Volunteer Sites	Kevin Gibbs, CEA Horticulture	Various locations – We will carpool and caravan
Week 13 Oct 25-30	10/25/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Propagation	Tim Hartmann, Program Specialist, Earth-kind	Virtual - Zoom
	10/30/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Propagation Lab	Nina Dawson, Nueces Master Gardeners	South Texas Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples, CC, Tx 78413
Week 14 Nov 1-6	11/1/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Irrigation/Rainwater Har- vesting	Dr. Becky Bowling, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist for Urban Water	Virtual - Zoom
	11/6/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Rainwater Harvesting Lab	Joanne Salge, Ron Maxwell Nueces Master Gardeners	South Texas Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples, CC, Tx 78413
Week 15 Nov 8	11/8/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Wrap Up & Post Test	Kevin Gibbs/Master Gardeners	South Texas Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples, CC, Tx 78413

Outdoor Volunteer Opportunities:



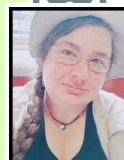
EARTH-KIND BEDS AT BOTANICAL GARDENS—Each of the five beds is maintained by a team comprised of NMGs, whose day to work may vary. The group meets Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to get involved contact [Paul Parr](#) for information at . ***Sign in at the gift shop upon arrival & add your volunteer time before you leave.***



GARDEN SR. CENTER PATIO REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE—As our meeting & activity location, the Nueces Master Gardeners have been responsible for the maintenance and beautification of the patio's garden areas. A Committee is being formed to get back to work on this project. If you'd like to participate, click to email [Carlos Valdez](#) or call 688.6545



LEARNING TO GROW RAISED BED BUILDING—The Nueces Master Gardeners work together with the staff and students on the campuses of Corpus Christi Independent School District to learn how to grow store-bought produce from farm-to-table. Contact Education Chair, [Beth Spirko](#) FMI



RAY HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE—NMGs help coordinate student work in the garden area and offer hands-on gardening instruction. To get involved contact [Alene Burch](#) **Welcome new Botany Program & Greenhouse Project leader, and tennis coach Kyle Bowers!**



SOUTH TEXAS BOTANICAL GARDENS & NATURE CENTER

(STXBOT)—NMGs can help out at the STXBOT any time during business hours. There is always something that needs to be done within your abilities. Check in at the Gift Shop for assignments & to record your volunteer hours. [Renee Brown](#) ***has un-adopted rose beds. Two volunteers per rose bed is ideal to trim the roses and keep the bed weeded. Call/Text 361.443.2719***



XERISCAPE GARDENS— Monthly Saturday workday 8:00 am-12:00 pm on random dates. Located next to the Museum of Science & History, 1900 N. Chaparral St. **Tools ARE provided. NEXT work day: TBD**



LOCAL ACTIVITIES & EDUCATION

Coastal Bend Meetings/Conferences/Training/Volunteers/Group Participation

- Every Wednesday 10:00 am - **Gardening in the Gulf Coast Series** presented by your Coastal Bend extension offices. No schedule to post. See what's next by **PRE-register** through the Eventbrite website by selecting a date and getting a "ticket" to attend online. Do it early and save your ticket, as there is a limited number of online attendees. If you missed any, here are the [video presentations](#).
- 2nd Friday each Month 2:30 pm - **Port Aransas Landscape Lecture Series**. **IN-PERSON**. UTMSI Seminar Room, 750 Channel View Drive, Port Aransas, TX. Register [here](#). Online attendance available.
- ♦ **South Texas Botanical Garden & Nature Center classes**. Free to members and with garden admission, or \$5 for class only. See their **October Calendar**.



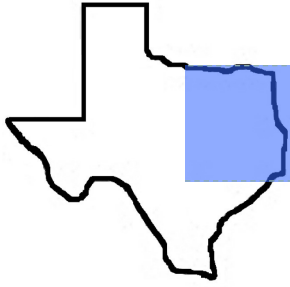
Win \$500 to improve an outdoor space in your community! Gather a team and enter this year's [Texas Arbor Day contest](#) using Tree Trails, a [tree mapping application](#) from Texas A&M Forest Service. This is a great activity to do with school groups, members of the community, or fellow chapter members!



**SEPTEMBER
Member Mtg
Certified MG
Door Prize
Winner!**



Kelly Denson



REGIONAL Activities

State-Wide Meetings/Conferences/Training/Education/Events

- ♦ October 15 - 16 [Galveston County - Fall Plant Sale](#) Virtual Event
- ♦ October 19 - **Tuesday from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm** [Harris County - Green Thumb Series - Plan Propagation](#) Watch on Facebook Live: facebook.com/harriscountyp/live
- ♦ October 30 - **Saturday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am** [Galveston County - Kokedama Hands-On Workshop](#) Preregistration required and \$20 class fee
- ♦ **SEE ALL [EVENTS ON THE TXMG.ORG WEBSITE](https://txmg.org)**
- ♦ Every Monday at 6:00 pm—**Aggie Turfie Tuesdays Talks** on their [Facebook](#) page for live Q&A.
- ♦ Every Wednesday & Friday at 1:00 pm—Aggie Horticulture [Facebook Live Events](#)
- ♦ First & Third Thursdays at 12:12 pm-Chat with TAMU Green Aggies. Click to Register for the [1st](#) Thursday & [3rd](#) Thursday. **Oct 21 Fall Favorites**
All previously recorded chats are available here: [\(1\) Chat with Green Aggies - YouTube](#).
- ♦ Second Tuesdays at 12pm-1pm—**Tx Master Naturalists: #TMNT Tuesdays** online via WebEx. [WebEx 101 Guide](#). Click [here](#) to see previous month's presentations, and watch when next month's date turns **green**, then click it & register for the class!
- ♦ Third Wednesdays 6:30 pm-8:00 pm—**Water Wednesdays**. To receive the meeting link, register [here](#) by 3:00 pm on class dates or before. [Flyer](#)
- ♦ One day every Third Week of the Month - Webinar at 6:30pm-7:30pm—[Texas Waters Specialist Program](#). Register for any/all 2021 webinars or view past webinars for CE hours, or become a Texas Water Specialist!
- ♦ Monthly—2nd Friday of each month 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm [Landscaping Lecture Series](#)



A Contribution From Karen Easton

FLORA FACT

TEARS OF BLUE

The dayflower — also called widow's tears — provides splashes of color across the state.

by Rushton Skinner

Long before I learned the flower's woeful moniker, I thought about the true-blue color of widow's tears and how it might have permeated history. As a child, I picked the bi-petaled flowers and rubbed them between my fingers, staining them blue. I imagined how Native Americans might have used the prolific flower for inks and dyes.

Widow's tears (*Commelina erecta*) gets its name from the tear-like drop of liquid that oozes out if you squeeze the bracts below the flower. Attractive and ephemeral, the flowers of widow's tears bloom for only one day, specifically just one morning, prompting its other common name of dayflower. Multiple flowers on the plant bloom over the

course of different days, keeping constant blooms despite their short lifespan.

Widow's tears and its many variations grow across North America. In the north, yearly freezes seem to keep its growth in check, but here in Texas, widow's tears can be nearly invasive in their vitality. They can be seen here much of the year, through spring, summer and fall.

Roughly an inch in diameter, two blue petals resemble ears on either side of the stamen where the third, less-noticeable white petal sits below. Unless there is a host plant to allow vertical growth, widow's tears creeps near the ground, creating cover. Bright yellow pistils attract pollinators; seed pods attract birds such as quail and dove.

"Swedish botanist [Carl] Linnaeus named

this genus for three Dutch botanists, the Commelin brothers," write John and Gloria Tveten in *Wildflowers of Houston and Southeast Texas*. "Two of the brothers, Jan and Kaspar, published widely in their field; the third died before becoming well known. Linnaeus thought the unequal petals of the dayflower nicely represented the talents of the three brothers."

The flowers themselves are edible and can be eaten raw or candied, their beautiful blue color providing natural accents on baked goods. In fact, the lance-shaped leaves and shoots are also edible. The Spanish name for the plant is *hierba del pollo*, or "herb of the chicken."

The plant has medicinal benefits as well, having been used to treat wounds and spider bites.

NMGS

LTG Beds @ CCISD Windsor Park & Galvan Elementary Read About It [Here!](#)



NMGS

LTG Beds @ CCISD—Coles HS & Seed Packing



Sea Beans Iowa Master Gardener and winter Texan, [Marian McNabb](#) found along the Texas Gulf Coast:



*The Blister Pod, also called a Hand Grenade, *Sacoglottis amazonica*, comes from the Amazon River Basin. The Amazon River is about 4000 miles long, meaning the Blister Pod travels further than we do to get to the beach in Texas. It's one of my favorite Sea Beans.*

*Hamburger Sea Bean, *Mucuna*, is from the Tropics, I've found them in shades of brown to gray and in sizes from 3/4 inch to 1 1/2 inches. Next to the Heart Bean, the Hamburger Bean is the easiest to find. The Center line, also known as the Hilum, is black and goes around the bean approximately 3/4 of the way. You can also grow a Hamburger Bean. I found one a few years ago that had a partial root. I planted it in a hard hat I found on the beach, filled it with beach sand and took it home. When we arrived home I planted it in half sand/half potting soil. It grew well until I had to take it inside in September, it didn't like the transfer and died. Something you can try if you live in a warm Texas climate.*

*Mary Bean, *Merremia discoidesperma*, grows on vines. It's a special Black Sea Bean with an oblong mark on one side where it was attached to the plant and an indentation of a cross on the other side. It's said they bring good luck to the finder. Mary Beans are treasured by everyone hunting Sea Beans, don't lay it down or it'll disappear. Our last day of hunting Sea Beans before we left for home, I found 5 Mary Beans at our Honey Hole, unusual to find so many in one day. Keep on searching, you'll find a lot of Sea beans, enjoy*

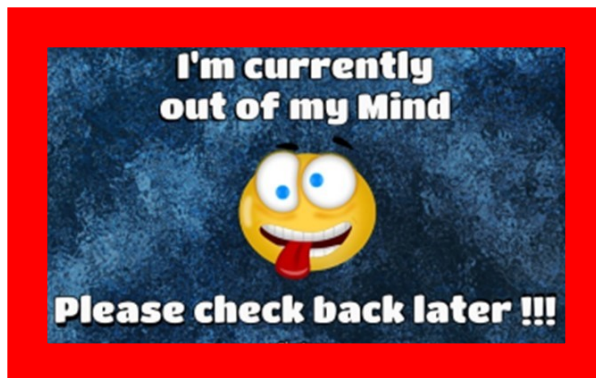
A little about me, I'm a Master Gardener from NW Iowa, in growing zone 4. PeeWee, our dog and I spend our winters in Texas volunteering at Padre Island National Seashore. My husband was retired U.S. Navy, he passed away in 2017 but PeeWee and I still come to Texas, she hunts Tennis Balls while I hunt Sea Beans. I served on the National Board of the National Garden Clubs, for 16 years, am presently serving as Bird and Butterfly Chairman for the Central Region Garden Clubs which consists of 7 States. I love Flowers, Gardening, and hunting Sea Beans along our Gulf Coast in Texas and most anything related to the great outdoors. I call us "All Americans" as we continue to serve our Country as Volunteers.

Click Marian's name above to send her an email for questions, comments or conversation!



Vaccines & Testing for Coronavirus/COVID-19

- **Go to the City's website for current Corpus Christi info:**
www.cctexas.com/coronavirus.
- **While there, sign up to receive news updates via email & go to**
nuecesknows.com **for vaccine availability.**
- **Call the Hotline with questions, if you think you are sick, or to make an appointment to be tested: 361.826.7200.**



For General Info:

Individuals with Disabilities

who require auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any extension event are encouraged to contact their County Extension Office at 361.767.5217 at least one week in advance of the program in order for proper arrangements to be made.

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Robstown, TX 78380-3148
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stella.nepote@ag.tamu.edu

**TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION**

Nueces Master Gardener Gazette

is produced monthly with submissions due to the Editor, Kelly Denson (class 27), by the 5th of each month.

We welcome your submissions, comments, corrections or suggestions!

Send them to

gazette.nuecesmg@gmail.com



Disclaimer

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating