



Parent educator Jennifer Lloyd, left, and program manager Becky Fletcher demonstrate how to create a heating pad with a tube sock and rice. The Parenting Cottage of Lubbock held a "Baby Basics" program for expectant mothers Thursday at Kendrick Memorial Library.



Server Kylie Caswell, right, pours a glass for guests Hector and Ortencia Garcia. The third annual Terry County Grape Growers Reception brought food, fun and wine to St. Anthony's Catholic Church fellowship hall Saturday night.

Wine tasters gather for fun

Wine fans might have disagreed Saturday night about whether they preferred red or white, but nearly all could consent on some great times.

The Brownfield Area Chamber of Commerce's third annual Terry County Grape Growers Reception brought a sold-out guest list from 180 tickets to St. Anthony's Catholic Church fellowship hall.

And along with the significantly larger crowd size, the growing event this year featured a meal pairing. Guests sampled a variety of locally-grown vinos as servers provided a three-course dinner of salad, lasagne and a chocolate souffle dessert.

"The food was wonderful, and the service was excellent," said guest Edilia Garcia of Brownfield. "Salud!"

Fellow wine fan Karla Webb, who traveled from her home in Lamesa to sample the wine list and chat with friends, agreed. "We're having a great time, and the wines were really good."

The food arrived at tables by course, while servers were quick to refill glasses and answer questions about the types of wine they were providing. Guests compared their favorite flavors while enjoying some good food and conversation.

"Everything's really good," said guest Hector Garcia. "We're looking forward to next year," added his date, Ortencia Garcia.

Aside from the food and fellowship, the reception also aimed to promote Terry County's rapidly-growing grape industry. All the wine served had been produced from local grapes, and leaders in the county's vineyards and new wine business were featured as special guests.

Caprock Winery catered the food and beverages for the event, as part of an ongoing collaboration with local vineyard managers.

"The turnout was very good, and I hope they continue having this event because it's a good event to focus on the Terry County grape-growers," Caprock Winery owner Cathy Bodenstedt told the *News*. "It was very well-organized, and the food was wonderful."

Bodenstedt added that her company's two largest growers - the Redding and Bingham vineyards - were both located in Terry County.

Chamber of Commerce Director Lorena Valencia noted how successful the reception had grown each of the past three years, and added that a vineyard festival was currently in its planning stages.

"The event has doubled in size every year," she said. "I really appreciate everyone's support."

Fellow organizer Buzz Timmons added, "We owe a special thanks to the servers and pourers who volunteered and made the whole thing possible."



Lexi Willis (second from left) was November's Senior Girl of the Month for the local chapter of the American Association of University Women. Lexi is a high academic achiever and student body president at Brownfield High School, where she is also involved in cheerleading, choir, one-act play, FCA and other activities. Next year she plans to study education and music at Lubbock Christian University. She is shown accepting the honor with supporters (left to right) Penny Willis, Barbara Wheatley and Kerre Messer.

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