

Festival at New Braunfels

Wurstfest to begin Nov. 4

By MICHELLE SCUDDER
The best of the "wurst" will be served Nov. 4-13 when Wurstfest celebrates its 17th year of festivities in New Braunfels.

Tom Purdum, public relations chairman for the festival, said he expects Wurstfest to draw a crowd of about 160,000 for the 10 days of events.

Wurstfest originated in 1961 with the idea of acknowledging the large number of ethnic Germans in the community, and to recognize their art of food preparation and German heritage, Purdum said.

Wurstfest visitors can swing out to a polka, sip a foamy German brew, or munch wurst on a stick while enjoying fellowship in the German manner.

Sausage lovers observe Wurstfest with gusto, as last year they ate 42 tons of sausage in addition to 40,000 ears of corn and 30,000 shishkebab. Wurstfesters also can sample strudels, kartoffel pancakes, homemade brotchen (little bread) and other old German recipes.

Diverse entertainment will be featured during the festival. Myron Floren, star of the Lawrence Welk

TV show, will make his 10th consecutive appearance at Wurstfest Nov. 6-10. The calls of the Alpine yodelers and the strains of oompah music from the polka bands will capture the spirit of European type entertainment throughout the week of festivities.

The agenda also includes a Wurstfest olympics of canoe races, auto rally, sailboat regatta and European style bike race. Other events are old time melodramas, the Heritage Exhibit and the "Sausage Dog" (dachshund) show. Prizes will be awarded to the oldest, longest and best dressed "sausage dogs."

New Braunfels' population of 20,000 is one-third German descent, mainly fourth and fifth generation. They came to the Texas wilderness 116 years ago with foun-

der Prince Carl Solms of Braunfels, Germany.

"Another reason for Wurstfest was to stretch the tourist season and bring people into New Braunfels during the off-season. Wurstfest has had a major impact on tourism," Purdum said.

The MSC Travel Committee is sponsoring a trip to Wurstfest Nov. 5 for \$10 per person. Price includes bus trip and gate ticket. "We only have 37 places on the bus this year, so people interested in going need to sign up soon," Melinda Heath, trip coordinator said.

As the Germans would say, Wurstfest is "gemuetlichkeit", fun and fellowship the German way.

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Health care fraud becomes felony

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Carter signed legislation Tuesday providing stiffer penalties for providers of medicare and medicaid programs who defraud the elderly and poor.

The new law levies felony penalties to a maximum \$25,000 fine and five years in prison, replacing the usual misdemeanor penalties of up to a \$10,000 fine and one year in prison.

The bill, passed overwhelmingly by Congress and sent to the White House on Oct. 13, is aimed at doctors and other health care providers, but retains misdemeanor penalties for recipients convicted of defrauding the programs.

Congress acted at Carter's urging to combat the estimated \$1 billion a year in waste and fraud in medicare and medicaid programs.

A network of watchdog agencies called Professional Standards and Review Organizations monitor overcharges by doctors as well as fraudulent operation of store front organizations claiming to help the poor and elderly.

Testimony before Congress revealed "ping pong" operations in which patients were shunted from one doctor to another to increase reimbursements coming to the store front operations.

Rep. Paul Rogers, D-Fla., chief

sponsor of the House version of the new law, said during debate that Attorney General Griffin Bell reported that the FBI is training some 350 agents in auditing medicare and medicaid records as part of its drive to crack down on white collar crime.

The new law includes a delay through Dec. 31, of a Department of Health, Education and Welfare order to penalize 22 states a total of \$250 million because of inadequate review by the states of medicare patient care in nursing homes. The penalties were to be imposed Oct. 1.

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Q: The figure "130" represents:

- a) The number of mailmen in the U.S. answering to the name of Louie.
- b) Any combination of the numbers 70 and 60.
- c) The number of times the word porcupine can be written on a zucchini.
- d) The number of Schlitz taste testers.
- e) Both (b) and (d).

A: (e) I can think of no combination of 70 and 60 that does not equal 130. (If you can, you now know why you are flunking math.)

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