

'Yard of the Month' awarded to Viucichs

The Civic Garden Club has displayed the "Yard of the Month" sign at the home of John and Brenda Viucich on Laughlin Road.

John and Brenda moved to Eagle Lake in Oct. 1995 and purchased the house that was built by Harold and Inez Thomas.

This couple have refurbished the house and re-landscaped the yard, giving it a different look each season.

For Christmas, they outlined the front yard and side walk with lights and candy canes. The brick wall has swags of garlands and poinsettias. On the lawn is a lighted reindeer and sleigh of toys.

On each side of the front patio are a lighted wreath and Christmas bells. The roof is outlined in lights. The back yard is also decorated.

Christmas carols are played in the evening from the trees.

Their display is outstanding. Be sure you take the time to see it before the season ends.

The Viucichs love their new home and are glad they found Eagle Lake. Brenda has joined the Garden Club and wants to become an active citizen. Drive down Laughlin Road and

you will get a wonderful feeling about Christmas.

Thanks to John and Brenda for sharing their time and talents.

Our town is looking very festive. Drive around, take a friend or neighbor. "Have yourself a very Merry Christmas."

Highlights

Continued from Page 2

Chairman Bivins last week filed legislation that would broaden the "safe schools" provision in the 1995 education reform law.

The legislation would:

•Give schools the discretion to expel students for misdemeanor drug offenses;

•Ensure students are informed of allegations against them and have a chance to respond;

•Require alternative programs run by juvenile justice authorities to serve all students who are expelled, not just those who are declared delinquent by a court; and

•Require schools to place students in alternative education programs for off-campus felonies only if the student has been charged and the school has been notified.

"The purpose of this package is to further the cause of safe schools," Bivins told the Associated Press.

Tuition Deregulation Off Agenda

Also last week, Bivins said deregulating college and university tuition will not be among his priorities for higher education.

Bivins, who supported a tuition-deregulation proposal by former Senate Education Committee Chairman

Bill Radloff, told the *American Statesman*, "One of my concerns is that (deregulation) might create a group of second-class institutions."

"So long as we have a system of public higher education, I think there are some good arguments to treat everyone equally."

Under Radloff's proposal, the governing boards of individual institutions could set their own tuition rates, but no lower than the state rate established by the Legislature.

Other Capital Highlights

•The Texas Sunset Commission authorized the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse to operate for the next 12 years. The 1997 Legislature must approve the authorization. TCADCA was placed in conservatorship in 1995 after an investigation of financial mismanagement in local treatment centers.

•Tougher parole measures for sex offenders have helped reduce the number of sexual assaults in Texas by 17% since 1993, said Tony Fabelo, executive director of the Criminal Justice Policy Council. The parole board is getting tougher, almost never granting parole, he said.

1996

year. George Cason, former Colorado SWCD Director was recognized for his National Distinguished Service award, which was presented to him by the National Association of Conservation Districts at the national meeting in Las Vegas. The Colorado SWCD Directors were also selected and presented an award for the Outstanding Conservation District in Area III.

As usual, schools in the area were given assistance in conservation education as requests were made to the district. The Environmental Education Committee is comprised of 11 retired teachers and one mother interested in school activities.

Members of this committee, with the assistance of Clara Hornet and Connie Fair held meetings to review the regulations and set up new district judging requirements for the coloring, poster and essay contest sponsored by the district each year.

A total of 182 faculty members and 350 students at all schools in the county were visited by Hornet, Executive Secretary/Technician and Connie Fair, District Conservationist.

At any time, if contacted by faculty members, Hornet and Fair will visit with the schools and present Conservation programs for the students and faculty.

District Approved for Natural Resources Seminar

The Board of directors of the Colorado SWCD again sponsored the Regional Natural Resource Seminar for Teachers on June 11-13. Headquarters for the two day seminar was at Cathedral Oaks in the New Bielau Community.

The 28 teachers attending could receive 14 hours of Advanced Academic Training credit if requested as well as 15 hours Endorsement time. Conservation Activity programs included Principals of Outdoor Education; Soils Composition; Ecosystem Concept; Weather And How It Impacts The Environment; Examination of Water Ecosystem; Water Quality Management Methods; Wetlands;

Wildlife; Endangered Species; Natural Resources; Pasture Management; Wildlife Management; Land Capability; Planning An Outdoor Learning Area and Plan Development and a hands demonstration of "STAR LAB," a portable planetarium.

Soil Stewardship Week

Soil Stewardship Week was observed from April 28 through May 5, with the Colorado SWCD distributing Soil Stewardship materials and information to the ministers for use in Soil Stewardship activities. The ministers were treated to a breakfast and a stewardship program at Schobel's in Columbus. A film, *Keepers Of The Flame*, was shown to all in attendance.

Range and Land Judging Contest

The Colorado SWCD and the Austin County SWCD sponsored a range and land judging contest in April in which FFA students participated individually.

Dry Fire Hydrant

A dry fire hydrant for the Garwood Volunteer Department was installed on Engstrom property in the Garwood area. The dry fire hydrants are installed in rural areas for rural fire protection. The hydrants provide a readily available source of unprocessed water for fire protection and allows rural volunteer fire departments to be much more efficient by providing water sources closer to fire risks.

New Cooperators

During this year, the district approved conservation plans on three new conservation cooperators for 786 acres and conservation plans were revised on 2310 acres to show conservation decisions made by cooperators.

A total of 340 cooperators, and other land users received assistance concerning conservation problems during the year.

Application of soil and water related conservation practices on the land in Colorado County are 204,498 acres. Colorado SWCD also participated in the Senate Bill-503, Water Quality Management Plans. The district, along with the NRCS personnel also participated in Prescribed Burn Plans, in order to restore the land to natural grasses.

Recreation and wildlife have also become a major economic influence in Colorado County economy each year. Hunting of doves, ducks, geese, quail and deer bring countless dollars into the Colorado County economy each year.

Increasingly Important

The need for soil and water conservation program becomes even more important every year with the increase in value of land and the need for greater food production to feed an ever-growing world population.

Continued from Page 9

Properly managed land will financially benefit the landowners and also the consumer. Sound management of conservation practices benefits everyone.

The Colorado SWCD directors look forward to working with land users in the community who are conservation minded and who are trying to protect their natural soil and water resources.

Media Thanked

During the holiday season, the Colorado SWCD would like to express its appreciation to the *Colorado County Citizen*, *Banner Press Newspaper*, *Weimar Mercury*, *Eagle Lake Headlight*, *New Ulm Enterprise* and *Radio Station KULM* for their continuing support in the interest of resource conservation.

The Colorado SWCD belongs to you - the people of Colorado County. The district would like for you to know that your participation in district activities is encouraged and appreciated.

24 & 48

Continued from Page 4

Tuesday morning at Laughlin Hospital, weighing five pounds and seven ounces...

A group of "hobos" gathered at the home of Mrs. & Mrs. Walter Meitzen Jr. Tuesday evening to honor Betty Kay on her 13th birthday...

Another young man to choose the U.S. Marines is Lester Barger of Eagle Lake. Lester is now in Calif. undergoing basic training at the Recruit Depot, San Diego...

A group of the younger social set gathered at the home of Mrs. Simon Landry Jr. Thursday evening when

Mrs. Sonny Dugas and Mrs. Daniel Becker assisted in honoring Miss Betty Jean Kretzschmar with a bridal shower...

Mrs. Della H. Macura of El Campo announced the engagement of her daughter, Jarvis, to James H. Schiurring, son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Schiurring of Garwood...

Mrs. & Mrs. Ted Lewis Balusek, who were married by Rev. C. Emigeltz, Lutheran Pastor of Weimar on Saturday, Oct. 9, are now making their home in the Wm. Randow apartment.



Happy New Year - FROM ALL OF US
TACO TONY'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT
Owners Tony & Rosa Garcia and Staff

THANKS FOR BEING IN STEP WITH US!

This New Year's Eve, whether you
Tango...fandango...
Or all-out shake-it-up on the floor,
We'd like to cut in and wish you
A very happy 1996!

Waltz right in and see us anytime!

From Your Elected Officials...

Lawrence Berger Constable Precinct #1

Darlene Hayek County Clerk

Wilfred Luedecke Constable, Precinct #4

Ivan Menke Constable, Precinct #3

J. Julian Moore County Attorney

Mary Jane Poenitzsch Tax Assessor/Collector

Richard Seifert Commissioner Precinct #1

Vince Slominski Colorado County Judge-Elect

L.J. "Sonny" Spanihel Commissioner Precinct #4

Joyce Stancik County Treasurer

Mary Lou Szymanski Justice of the Peace Precinct #4

Harvey Vornsand District Clerk

R.H. "Curly" Wied Colorado County Sheriff-Elect



Peace in
'97

We wish you a happy, peaceful New Year,
filled with calm and strength.

Thomas Clinic

610 S. Austin Road

Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Thomas

Dr. & Mrs. Leonard Bornstein

Jane Booker

Elna Castro

Elna Torres

Jonna Bowen

Ernestine Lott

Sandra Cordero

Alma Larmer

Angelica Martinez

Sheri Gould

Larry Morales

Joyce Rhodes

Eagle Lake

Dr. & Mrs. Russell Thomas

Lois Goodwin, P.A.-C.

Judith Satsky

Jill Satsky

Carolyn Baird

Grace Wick

1997

BRIGHT
WISHES
FOR THE
NEW YEAR

Hope your new year
opens to rave reviews.
Thank you for
doing business
with us.

Lake Oil
Company

Eagle Lake Conoco