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Dr. Russell again takes part in Preceptorship Program

In 1997, Texas continues to seek ways to find more primary care physicians in both rural and urban areas.

For the past 20 years, the Texas Family Residency Program (TFRP) has trained family doctors to meet this need.

At the present time, there are 31 community-based Family Practice Residency Programs throughout the state. As a part of this effort, the TFRP also funds the Texas Statewide Preceptorship Program (TSPP) in Family Practice.

The TSPP is designed to promote medical student interest in the specialized field of family medicine. Much credit of the successful program has been attributed to its involvement with the Texas Academy of Family Physicians (TAFP).

This association, with more than 5,000 members, has provided volunteer family physicians who serve as preceptors to Texas medical students in conjunction with the departments of Family Practice.

Dominique Isenhower, currently a student attending Baylor College of Medicine, participated in the TSPP,

Thomas, D.O., of Eagle Lake.

Since its inception, the TSPP has enabled 3,248 clinical and 2,226 pre-clinical Texas medical students to work in the offices of experienced Texas family physicians, usually for a month at a time.

This exposure allows medical students to observe firsthand the challenges and satisfactions of practicing primary care and to examine Family Practice as a serious personal career option.

A number of national studies have shown medical students are more likely to select a particular specialty based on the amount of exposure and quality of role models they encounter.

Jack Haley, M.D., and Lewis Foxhall, M.D., serve as co-coordinators for the TSPP.

The statewide preceptorship program is supported by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, utilizing funds established through the Texas Family Practice Residency Program (1977 House Bill 282).

Stipends enable participating students to offset living costs during their

preceptorship.

An effective preceptorship can promote students' awareness of their clinical strengths and weaknesses, increase their self-confidence and facilitate their application of classroom knowledge to the problems encountered by the family physician.

The good news is that medical students are recognizing the need for and value of becoming family physicians and more students are choosing Family Practice, with Texas filling its highest number of Family Practice Residency slots than ever before.

As a result and in order to meet this demand, the 75th Texas Legislature increased the amount of state support for these medical education efforts by more than \$5 million for the next biennium.



Keeping an eye on Texas

Blossoms into a billion

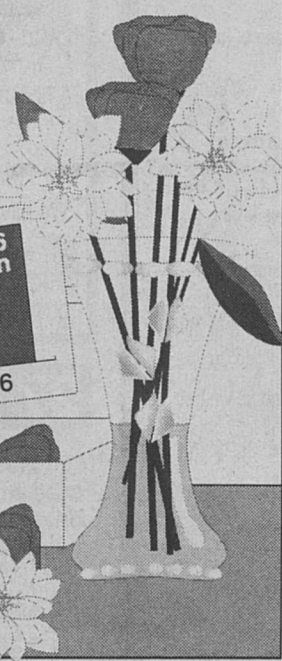
The winter holiday season is the busiest season of the year for floral retailers. Texas outlets sold close to a billion dollars of blossoms in 1996.

Top holiday sales

1. Winter holidays
2. Mothers' Day
3. Valentine's Day
4. Easter / Passover
5. Thanksgiving

Gross sales by Texas florists

\$377.4 million	1986
\$993.6 million	1996



SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, U.S. Floriculture Industry and Society of American Florists.

MILITARY NEWS

1st Lt. Keith C. Korenek

...son of Virginia and John Korenek Sr. of Garwood, recently participated in Exercise Bright Star '97 while on a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) embarked aboard the ships of the USS Guam Amphibious Ready Group. While most Americans are celebrating the holiday season at home or with their family, Korenek is scheduled to spend the holidays deployed to the Mediterranean with the 24th MEU.

Korenek's unit participated in the multinational exercise which entailed naval, tactical air, amphibious assault, undersea, special forces and ground combat training. U.S. troops from all branches of the military participated along with forces from Egypt, France, Italy, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. Exercise Bright Star was designed to improve unit readiness and interoperability with coalition forces.

Korenek is one of more than 65,000 Marines, Sailors and Coast Guardsmen who are serving our country separated from their families and loved ones this holiday period. Korenek is working abroad to preserve peace as part of our nation's forward defense forces.



Echándole el ojo a Texas

Floreando billones

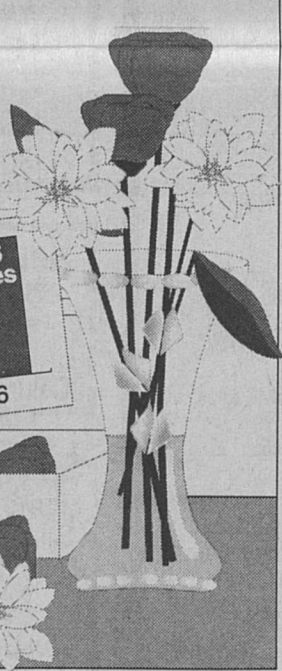
Las fiestas del invierno es la temporada de más ventas para los floristas, quienes vendieron casi un billón de flores en 1996.

Ventas en temporada de fiestas:

1. Vacaciones del invierno
2. Día de la Madre
3. Día de San Valentín
4. Pascua
5. Día de Gracia

Ventas brutas por floristas en Texas

\$377.4 millones	1986
\$993.6 millones	1996



FUENTES: John Sharp, Contralor de Cuentas Públicas, Industria Nacional de Floricultura, y Sociedad de Floristas Americanos.

Review

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served from April 28 through May 4.

The Directors of CSWCD sponsored a breakfast for 32 ministers and special guests. A video, "Stewards of Family Farms, Ranches and Forests", was shown to all in attendance.

County Judge Vince Slominski signed a proclamation proclaiming "Soil Stewardship Week".

Range and Land Judging Contest

The CSWCD, the Austin County SWCD and Fayette SWCD sponsored a range and land judging contest at the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge in April.

Forty-six FFA students from 12 schools participated in the Range Judging Contest and 79 participating in the Soils Contest.

Youth Oriented Activities

District and NRCS personnel were active in programs for the youth.

Students at St. Michael's School were presented with a program on soils. Personnel participated in Columbus Junior High's River Day at Reason's Park by providing a Nature Trail where native plants were identified.

Co-sponsored with Texas Agricultural Extension Service, a 4-H

Natural Resources Project on rice, rice production and wildlife was given.

Personnel participated in the 4-H Day Camp by providing a program on native plants.

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

On Jan. 21, the District will be celebrating 50 years of conservation in Colorado County and the Directors encourage your participation in conservation activities.

CSWC District Board meetings are held at 8 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Colorado County Agricultural Building, 316 Spring Street in Columbus. The meetings are open to the public.

For more information, call the District office at 409-732-2773.

Army Pvt. Travis J. Pilsner

...son of Roger and Caroline Pilsner of Alleyton, has entered basic infantry training at Ft. Benning, Ga.

During training, he will receive instruction in drill and ceremonies, map reading, tactics, military customs and courtesies and first aid and will develop basic combat skills and experience using various weapons.

The private is a 1997 graduate of Columbus High School.

Pvt. Matthew L. Fellers

...son of Thomas and Laurie Fellers of Garwood, has entered basic training at Ft. Jackson, S.C.

During the eight weeks of training, soldiers study the Army mission and will receive instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy and justice, first aid, Army history and traditions, and special training in human relations.

Fellers received a high school diploma from Wharton County Junior College.

Police

Continued from Page 1

secure.

On Dec. 22, at 8:05 a.m., Chief Keith Webb responded to an activated alarm on State Street and found the building to be secure.

At 4:30 p.m., Sgt. Knox met with complainant at the police department in reference to criminal mischief to a residence. Knox investigated the scene and filed a report.

At 10:48 p.m. Officers Lattimore and Crume and Sgt. Knox met with a complainant on E. Main Street in regards to a case of criminal mischief. The case is under investigation.

At the same time, the officers met with another complainant and took a report of deadly conduct. This case is also under investigation.

At 11:30 p.m., Sgt. Knox responded to assist Officer Crume with a disturbance call on W. Davitt Street. While on the scene, Sgt. Knox found two minors in possession of alcohol and issued citations.

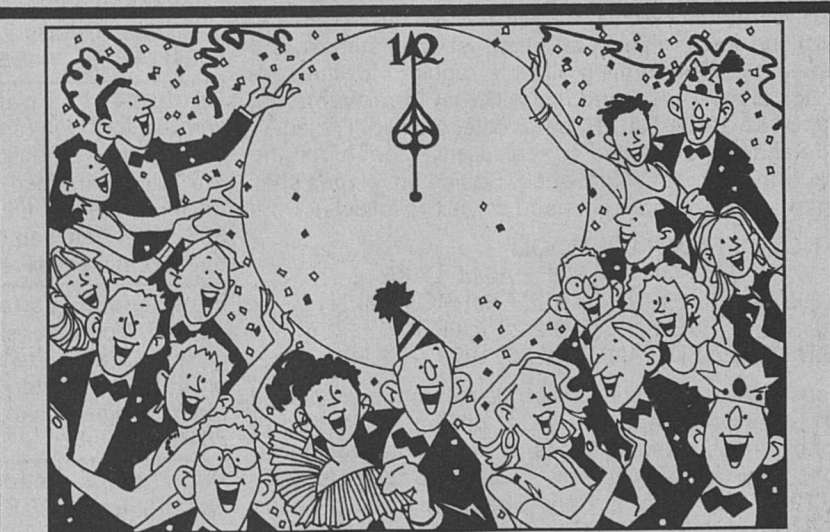
At 11:22 p.m., Officer Crume was dispatched to a disturbance on Davitt Street. On his arrival, the subject was gone from the scene.

At 11:29 p.m., Officer Crume was dispatched to a disturbance on Second Street. The subject advised there had been an argument, but no action was required.



Happy Belated Birthday to Guess Who?

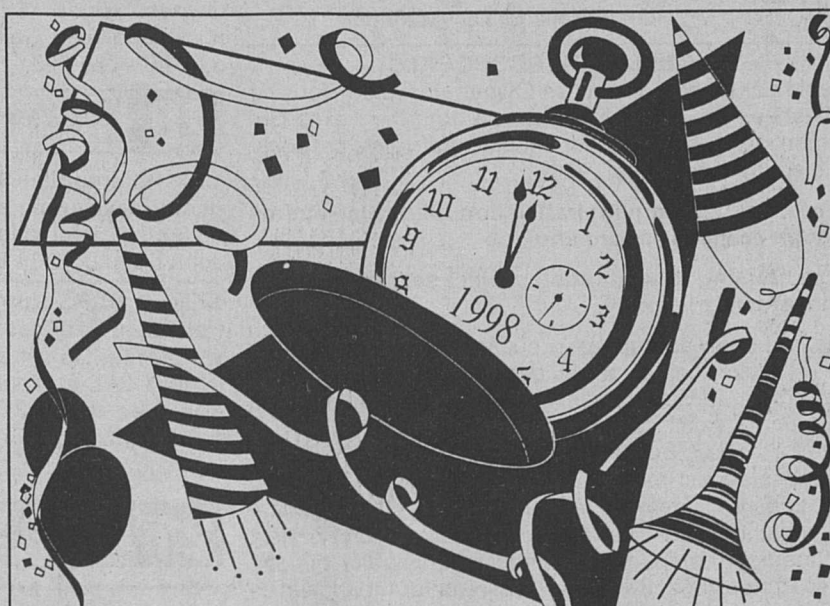
May God Bless You and Take Care of You for Many More Years to Come



Happy New Year - FROM ALL OF US

TACO TONY'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Owners Tony & Rosa Garcia and Staff



TIME OUT TO SAY "THANKS!"

Warm wishes for a happy and healthy new year to all our customers, neighbors and friends.

Furniture Shoppe

Melvin & Joyce Stancik
Tiffany Gully, Louis Mathews, David Romo

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YEAR-ROUND GOOD WISHES

Thanks and best wishes are on our agenda, and we're hoping that yours is filled with 365 fun-packed days. Happy New Year, everyone!

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East Main Service Station