

Eagle Lake Headlight

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Baby Bundle Volunteers honored

Wednesday, Dec. 8, the Texas Department of Health (TDH) honored its Baby Bundle Volunteers with a luncheon of turkey and dressing with all the trimmings.

The volunteers sew and/or crochet baby blankets, diaper shirts, caps, stuffed toys, pillows, balls, bibs and other items used by infants and young children who come to the TDH Public Health Clinic in Columbus.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to each volunteer, along with a drink container with the Texas

Volunteer Health Corps logo on it. Special guests and speakers for the occasion were Beverly Rawlings and Susan Rodriguez with the Texas Volunteer Health Corps in Austin.

Each expressed her sincere thanks for the caring and love each volunteer puts in their work in making these very needed items for the families and children in Colorado County.

Local staff of the TDH Public Health Clinic are Bernice Richter, R.N., Supervisor Betty Willbern,

R.N., Beverly Howe, R.N., Helen Jurris, Laura Hernandez and Rose Kersh.

Baby Bundle Volunteers are: Linda Tillman, activity director, Heritage House (HH); Ruby Schindler, HH; Gertrude Matecek, HH; Letha Henneke, HH; Sharon Davis, HH; Jean Cranford, HH; Margaret Anzaldua, HH; Lillie Kulow, HH; Clara Svoboda, HH; Margaret Gonzales, HH; Ester Raasch, HH; Faye Leihardt, activity director, Park View Manor (PVM); Adele Teltschick; PVM; (See Volunteers, Page 8)



Some of the Baby Bundle Volunteers from the Heritage House in Eagle Lake are, from left, Clara Svoboda, Gertrude Matecek, Ruby Schindler, Letha Henneke, Margaret Anzaldua and Activity Director Linda Tillman. Headlight Photo by Carol Nelson

SWCD, NRCS have productive year

As 1999 comes to a close, directors of the Colorado Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) #333 and personnel of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) reflect on the events of 1999.

History

The Colorado SWCD was organized by a vote of the landowners in 1947. On Jan. 21, 1948, the State appointed C.H. Matthews of Eagle Lake (Area IV) and Arthur Koehn of

Weimar (Area II) as original supervisors of the Colorado SWCD.

To complete the board, C.O. Heinsohn of Fayetteville (Area I), W.A. Hefner of Garwood (Area III) and E.F. Hennecke of Alleyton (Area V) were elected to serve on the first board of the District.

The five member board of directors supervised the operations of the District were concerned with all aspects of the community environment in addition to the planning and application of conservation practices on the farms, ranches and other lands in Colorado County.

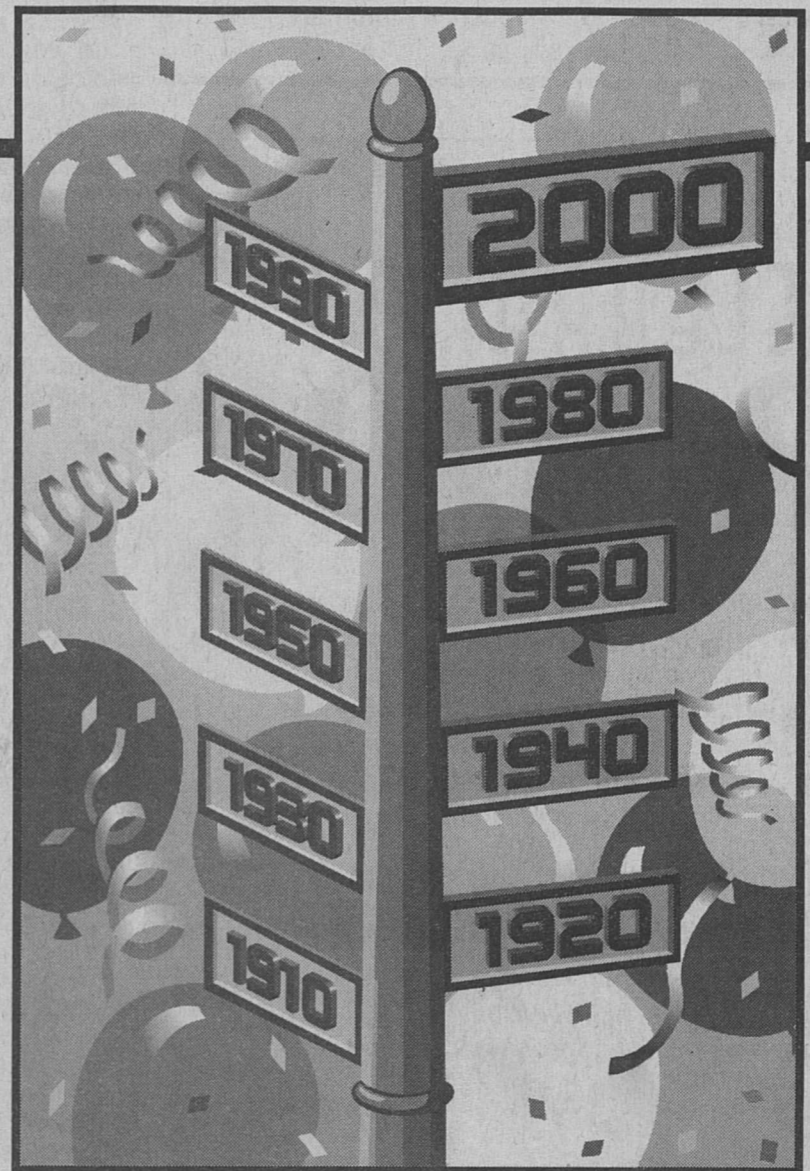
Today

The District recognizes conservation needs in Colorado County and provides technical assistance to land users in the county through the personnel of the NRCS by addressing conservation problems on their land. The joint effort resulted in the construction of 40 farm ponds, 50 acres of critical area planting, 4,000 acres of improved cropland, 5,000 acres of improved pastureland, 11,000 acres of improved rangeland and 5,000 acres of improved wildlife land. Project activities include Water Quality Management Plans, Prairie Wetlands Project, LCRA Riverside Erosion Project, Native Gulf Coast Prairie Restoration Project and Environmental Quality Inventive Plan (EQIP).

EQIP is a voluntary USDA conservation program for farmers and ranchers and provided technical, financial and educational assistance in priority areas. A joint effort of the local Soil and Water District, NRCS and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) assisted local landowners with 73 applications, of which 21 contracts were written. The contracts brought \$59,822 worth of needed conservation work to Colorado County.

In 1999, 21 landowners and operators have become new conservation cooperators bringing the total of cooperators in the District to 851, reflecting a total of 3572 acres of land involved in conservation plans that were prepared this year. In addition, 15 conservation plans have been revised. Three hundred cooperators apply one or more conservation practices on their land. The conservation practices from the District cooperator's plans have been applied on more than 208,572 acres of agricultural land in Colorado County. On a day to day basis, assistance was provided to 500 plus clients in the office and in the field.

The directors of the Colorado SWCD and the personnel of NRCS continually strive to improve service to the landowners and producers of Colorado County. This was achieved (See SWCD, Page 5)



THE NEW YEAR IS JUST AROUND THE BEND

We're sending out our very best,
To our friends, north, south, east and west,
And we hope you will celebrate,
At the appointed time and date,
With family and neighbors all,
We sure hope you'll have a ball.

Before we reach the big event,
We'll say what your support has meant,
It's been wonderful serving you,
And we hope it will continue,
Into 2000 and beyond,
Because, of you we're very fond!

A very happy New Year to our good friends everywhere!

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Take a quick look back over 1999

JANUARY

Cen-Tex Family Services was expanding its Head Start Services.

The Annual Legion Toy Drive helped over 270 children have a Merry Christmas.

News was received at *The Headlight* that Aaron M. Bubela had recently graduated from Texas A&M University.

Thirty people lost their lives over the Christmas holiday in 1998. The DPS estimated that at least 36 people would be killed in traffic accidents over the holiday.

Erica Ellenbogen won a blue ribbon for her artwork entered in the Rice High School Western Art Show.

Best of Show primary honors went to fourth grader John Supak; Best of Show junior high went to Joshua Henderson; and Best of Show high school went to Mercedes Estrada.

Gold Medal honors went to Charles Anzaldua, an eight grader at Eagle Lake Middle School, and Kurt Colde-way, a sophomore at Rice High School.

Candice Powers, granddaughter of Paul Powers of Eagle Lake, competed in the National Cheerleader Association's Best Cheerleader Competition. She earned second place.

The Rice High School Board extended Dr. Richard Gott's contract and also increased his salary.

Rice High School held its annual FFA Show and Sale and top showmanship winners were Heather Shanks, Cliff Cerny, and Caleche Cranek.

Grand Champions (GC) and Reserve Champion (RC) honors went to Travis Bujnoch, GC hog; RC hog, Cliff Cerny; GC heifer, Brett Boenisch; RC heifer, Shelley Boenisch;

GC lamb, Stephanie Braden; RC lamb, Dianna Rees; GC steer, Scott Bittner; RC steer, Heather Shanks.

Cancer claimed the life of long-time County Judge Lester Cranek. The Deputy Santa Program was deemed an overwhelming success.

Two members of the Colorado County Emergency Medical Services Unit 803 completed a five-month long paramedic course. Joe Lee Perez and Carolyn Baird are now State Certified Paramedics.

Barrett Thomas was nominated to attend West Point.

J.W. Shavers, 65, of Eagle Lake, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 20.

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce held its 48th annual banquet.

E.H. (Sonny) and Dorothy Breithaupt celebrated their 51st wedding (See 1999, Page 8)

NEWSBRIEFS

Holiday closings announced

The City Offices in Eagle Lake will be closed Dec. 31. Garbage pickup routes will be as follows: Thursday's garbage will be picked up Wednesday; Friday's garbage will be picked up Thursday. If you have any questions, call City Hall at 234-2640.

The First National Bank of Eagle Lake will close at 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31. The Colorado County Courthouse will be closed Friday, Dec. 31, for New Year's.

Citizens reminded of A&M donations

Steve Balas, member of the U.T. Ex-Student Association of Colorado County, would like to remind everyone about the account at Columbus State Bank for the "Texas Exes A&M Memorial Fund". You may send contributions to the bank at P.O. Box 249, Columbus, Texas 78934; or drop them off at Eagle Lake Drugstore. This is not limited to Texas Exes, anyone wishing to remember the students who lost their lives in the bonfire collapse are welcome to donate. The funds will be turned over to the Colorado County A&M Exes for a scholarship in memory of those students. If you have any questions, contact Balas in Eagle Lake or Dr. Tom Hancher in Columbus.

A New Year's resolution

Sick and tired of talking about getting in shape? Now is the time to do something about it. Contact the ICE House at 409-234-7990.

ICE House schedules prayer meeting

If you would like to bring in the New Year in an alcohol/drug free, positive environment, the ICE House will be open from 8 p.m. until ?? A prayer meeting will be held at 11:55 p.m., Dec. 31.

Dept. of Veterans Y2K okay!

The Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce that all VA computer systems have been certified as Y2K compliant. If you receive a regular, monthly payment from VA, your payment for Dec. will be paid on Dec. 30, 1999. If you receive your check direct deposit, it should be deposited in your account no later than Jan. 3, 2000. If you receive your check by mail, allow for delivery time. Beneficiaries can be assured that VA payments scheduled to be sent in Jan. 2000 and beyond will continue without interruption.

Senior Friends meeting set for Jan. 12

The monthly Senior Friends meeting and lunch will be held Jan. 12 at 11:30 a.m. at McDonald's. Cost is \$2 per person for a Texas Style Burger, small fries and small drink. Please RSVP by Jan. 10.

Triglyceride/cholesterol screening is Jan. 12

The monthly triglyceride/cholesterol screenings will be done from 7 to 9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, at the Gulf Coast Medical Center Lab. Schedule your appointment by calling 409-532-2500, ext. 1300.

Census jobs available

Temporary census jobs are available in this area. You could earn extra money by working full or part time. Census takers earn \$10.75 an hour, Crew Leaders earn 12.75 an hour and each are paid 31¢ a mile. Apply now by calling 1-888-325-7733 to find out how and where to apply. The Bureau of the Census is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Testing will take place in Eagle Lake at the Community Center on Wednesday, Dec. 29, at 2 p.m. Testing in Columbus was scheduled to take place at the Mansfield Building Wednesday, Dec. 29, at 10 a.m.