

# Why don't you rent your home?

By Carol Cardenas

Some people go around town asking this question. Why don't people want to rent their homes? Why do they just want to sell them?

This home located at 416 Strickland was a rent home and as you can see was destroyed by the renter.

Folks take a look at the photos below and you will see why people shy away from renting their property.

I was asked to photograph the home after a young lady and her children decided to leave it.

They left the house in horrible shape. They tore up stuff, took paneling off walls and decided to paint them, and even stole belongings that were in the home.

The damage itself runs into hundreds of dollars. Deposits don't always cover what renters do to your home. She also left owning four months rent.

To add insult to injury the lady that did this wrote hundreds of dollars in hot checks to the owner of the home. So now owner has to go through the

process of paying more money to file suit on this young lady for the hot checks as well.

The young lady was asked to leave the home by the owner, but then came back with a sob story of, "where will I and my children live if you throw us out?"

The kindhearted owner let her back in only to have it happen again.

Being kindhearted isn't always a good thing.

I hope the owner of the home has learned her lesson. But, most likely not cause she has the home up for rent again.

Hopefully the next person that rents from her won't leave the house in such a mess or at least pay her the rent on time.

Hey ya'll let's look out for one another.

If you see someone destroying a rent house let the owner know.

That way they can do something about it before it gets out of control.



**Couches the owner let the renter use were also destroyed**

Headlight Photos by Carol Cardenas



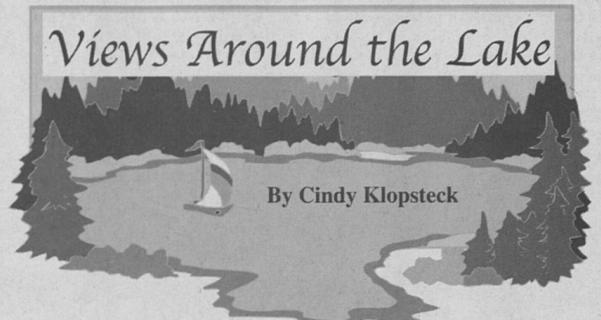
**Trash was just left strewn about in every part of the house.**



**At least this trash was put in some kind of a pile. Most of it seemed to be dropped where ever the person was standing.**



**A Newly Remodeled Kitchen Completely Torn Apart**



The week after Christmas....we may all be feeling a little empty and deflated around this time - kind of like the large deflated, normally inflated, Santa in my neighbor's yard. This jolly giant fellow bounced in the breeze throughout December and though, at times, he would shrink within himself and lose some of his (hot?) air, he would always bounce back by the next day, inflated to his old jolly gentle-giant size once again. But Christmas is now over and he lies deflated.

Many of us probably experienced a similar December. Most of the time we bounced around to the Christmas music, seasonal spirit and holiday cheer. And though, like the inflatable Santa, we had moments when we felt our inner strength deflating - crowded malls, lights that didn't light, decorations that didn't decorate, Christmas cookies that didn't bake themselves and hours that weren't long enough - we would at least get one good night's rest every three to four days and wake refreshed and inflated. But Christmas is now over and we too may be deflated.

This particular Santa only required air pressure to keep him afloat - we humans are made of sterner stuff and require sterner stuffing. Those of us who sought a deeper meaning during the Christmas season, whether it be our faith, family and friends, or the sharing and giving of ourselves for others, still feel the fullness and richness of the season. We are not empty and deflated just because Christmas Day itself has passed.

## Soil test campaign

Colorado County Cooperative Extension is sponsoring a soil testing campaign beginning Jan. 10 through Jan. 28. Pick up sample bags and instructions and return them to one of the following locations any time from Jan. 10 - Jan. 28: Colorado County Cooperative Extension Office, Colorado Feed - Columbus, Heffley's Mill & Grain - Columbus, Eagle Lake General Store, M-G Farm Service Center - Weimar, Farmers Co-Op - Garwood, Texana Seed - Garwood, Garwood Implement & Supply - Garwood, Bernardo Farm & Ranch - Bernardo and Heinsohn's Store - Frelsburg.

Routine Analysis is \$6 per sample. If you want Routine Analysis plus other micro nutrients your cost is \$10. Prices are only good for this soil testing campaign.

This should give all agricultural producers the opportunity to participate. You should have ample opportunity to get your test results back in plenty of time to decide how you want to apply fertilization this coming year.

Soil testing is the foundation of a sound fertility management program. A soil test is a series of chemical analysis on soils, which estimates whether levels of essential plant nutrients are sufficient to produce a desired crop and yield. When not taken up by a crop, some nutrients, particularly nitrogen, can be lost from the soil by leaching or volatilization. Others, like phosphorus react with soil minerals over time to form compound, which are not available for uptake by plants.

Collecting a good soil samples is the most critical step in soil testing. It is generally recommended that one "composite" soil samples be collected from each uniform area of 10 to 40 acres. Care should be taken to prevent sampling across areas with historically different land uses, soil types, fertilization practices or crop yields.

If you need further information, please feel free to call the Cooperative Extension Office.

## MDA seeks volunteers for 2005 summer camp

Volunteers looking for an exceptionally rewarding summer experience should consider Muscular Dystrophy Association summer camps. Volunteer counselors are needed to help young people with neuromuscular diseases enjoy the sun and fun at the upcoming MDA summer camp June 5-11, 2005 at Camp for All in Burton, Texas.

Volunteer counselors must be at least 16 years old and able to lift a young person between the ages of 6 and 21. Each counselor becomes a companion to a camper with a neuromuscular disease. Counselors help their campers with daily activities such as eating, bathing and dressing, and in recreational activities such as arts and crafts, swimming and horseback riding.

"MDA summer camp is the premier event of the year for so many of our kids," said Healthcare Services Coordinator Annie Clary. "They get to let down their hair in an environment especially tailored to their needs. For one week a year, having a muscle-wasting disease is the norm, not the exception. The confidence and friendships kids gain in this week are precious gifts."

Clary noted that volunteer counselors often say they get as much out of the week as the campers do, if not

more. "A real bonding occurs," she said. "It's kind of a magical time for everyone."

At no charge to families, MDA's summer camp program serves more than 4,300 campers nationwide in some 90 weeklong sessions. Last year, more than 4,500 volunteers helped make this all possible.

MDA is a voluntary health agency dedicated to finding treatments and cures for more than 40 neuromuscular diseases affecting more than a million Americans.

To obtain a volunteer application or learn about other ways to support MDA's summer camp program, call the local MDA office in Houston at 713-522-3941, or call MDA national headquarters at (800) 572-1717. More information about MDA summer camp volunteers can be found at MDA's Web site, [www.mdausa.org](http://www.mdausa.org).

MDA is a voluntary health agency working to defeat more than 40 neuromuscular diseases through programs of worldwide research, comprehensive services, and far-reaching professional and public health education. The Association's programs are funded almost entirely by individual private contributors.

## Pharmacy & Your Health

### EAGLE LAKE DRUGSTORE

Steve K. Balas, RPh

702 South McCarty • Eagle Lake • 234-2502

• Patient Counseling • We Accept Master Card, VISA, Discover & American Express

• Insurance Plans: Blue Cross, NPA, PCS, Pro-Serve, Sanus, PAID, Texas Medicaid

24 Hour Emergency Phone: 234-3834

### New Category of Psoriasis Drugs

Psoriasis is a non-contagious inflammatory skin disorder that affects between 3 and 4 million people in the United States. Skin lesions (called plaques) are typically thick, dry, cracked, and silvery in appearance. While lesions can occur anywhere on the skin, they tend to occur primarily at the elbows, skin folds, knees and in the scalp. Most health experts agree that psoriasis is an inherited disorder that is probably related to an immune response to the body's own cells. Flare ups (inflamed plaques) seem to occur with injury to the skin, infections, obesity, lack of sunlight, stress, and decreased immunity.

Mild psoriasis flares can sometimes be managed with different types of topical medicines such as coal tar shampoos, steroids, antibiotics, and antifungals. Oatmeal baths may provide soothing to inflamed tissue and help loosen scales. Moderate inflammation may respond to ultraviolet light. In severe cases, physicians may prescribe immunosuppressive drugs such as methotrexate. The newest category of psoriasis drugs is called biologicals which include etanercept (Enbrel), efalizumab (Raptiva), and alefacept (Amevive). This category of drugs seems to turn off or block specific steps in the immune process associated with causing psoriasis.

## A Toast To Our CUSTOMERS

Here's to you, for making our year, successful, joyous and filled with good cheer. Our glasses are full and our hearts are, too 'Cause we couldn't have done it without all of you!



## Lake Oil Company

Office: 234-3067

Station: 234-3334

## Taco Tony's Mexican Restaurant

20 Calhoun Road • Eagle Lake • 979-234-3984

We Will Be Open:

New Year's Eve & Day 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Morning Specials...

Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 12 noon

Lunch & Dinner Specials...

Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. and 5 to 8:45 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. to 9:15 p.m.



Saturday & Sunday...

Menudo • Caldo de Res • Barbacoa

Come In & See Our Specials!

Open: Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. and 5 to 9:15 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 8 a.m. to 9:15 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.