



Essay winners at the Colorado County Soil and Water Banquet were front, from left: Adrian Torres, Mikenna Gabler, Amy Guggins, Courtney Menis, Krystal Rodriguez. Back, Virginia Hromadka, Hill Bank; Anne Wick, Prosperity Bank; Wanda Faldyn, Industry State Bank and Deborah Herring.



The winners of the Resident Conservation Award were the Stavinoha family, front, from left: Tina, Robert, Amelia and Leroy. Back, John Crews, Columbus Lions Club; Deborah Herring and George Poppe, Columbus Lions Club.

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Poster winners were front, from left: Amberlee Munsch, Caitlyn Harmon, Kyndall Wick, Mary Courtney, Dayton Milner. Back, Lee Fritsch, LCRA; Morgan Smith, Courtney Menis, Deborah Herring and Daniel Miksch, Colorado Valley Communications. (More pictures next week)

### County Soil and Water Banquet Awards

The Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) hosted the 59<sup>th</sup> annual awards banquet on Friday, March 28 in Weimar at the Veteran's Memorial Hall. The banquet recognized conservationists, winners of the coloring, poster and essay contest and was a celebration of 60 years of locally led conservation.

CSWCD chairman W.J. Kleimann welcomed the group in attendance. Leslie Koehl and John Mozisek presented the colors while Doris Albright, past Zone

II led the pledge to the American and the Texas flags. Pastor Jeffrey Marsh from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Columbus gave the invocation. The meal was catered by Garland Polasek.

CSWCD vice-chairman Lawrence Shimek introduced the board of directors and dignitaries.

Beverly Tuck, District Secretary, announced the Bright Ideas Awards with Carol Ripper of First National Bank presenting the awards. The winners were presented to Emily Koenig, Kendall Marak, McKenna Munsch and Ana Karen Ortiz. The students displayed their E-Cyber Mission project which was a class project under the direction of teacher, V.J. Willis of St. Michael's School.

Karen Brod, Director of Zone I, who also serves as the Environmental Education chairman presented a report of the contest numbers and themes.

Clara Bartek announced the winners of the 2007-2008 Coloring Contest. Awards were presented by Milton Koenig representing Fayette Savings Bank. Those recognized include PK3 - Brianna Orange - St. Anthony's School, PK4 (tie) - Josh Guevara - Weimar Elementary (WES) and Cyndia Wilson - Columbus Elementary (CES), Kindergarten - Drayton Canaris - Eagle Lake Elementary (ELES), First Grade - Kaleb Elstner - St. Michael's, Second Grade (tie) Belle Cardoza - WES and Brittany Geisler - CES, Third Grade (tie) - Makayla Kunz - St. Michael's and Hillary Melendez - CES.

Edna Shimek announced the 2007-2008 Poster Contest winners.

Division I awards were presented by Daniel Miksch representing Colorado Valley Communications. Those recognized include first place - Amberlee Munsch - St. Michael's School, second place - Caitlyn Marmon - St. Michael's, third place - Kyndall Wick - CES and Honorable Mention - Mary Courtney - CES and Dayton Milner - St. Michael's. Division II awards were presented by Lee Fritsch representing LCRA. First place - Morgan Smith - CES, second place - Justin Rosenauer - St. Michael's and third place - Courtney Menis - St. Michael's.

The 2007-2008 Essay Contest winners were announced by Brenda Kleimann. Division I essay awards was presented by Virginia Hromadka (Hill Bank and Trust). Winners include first place - Adrian Torres - Sheridan Elementary School (SES), second place - McKenzie Moeller - CES and third place - Mikenna Gabler - SES, Honorable Mention - Debra Arrendondo - SES, Amethyst Cosson - St. Michael's and Miranda Moeller - CES.

Division II essay awards was presented by Anne Wick of Prosperity Bank. Those recognized include first place - Trevor Jones - Garwood Junior High, second place - Amy Huggins - Sheridan Junior High (SJH), third place - Mikenna Gabler - SJH and Honorable Mention - Courtney Menis - St. Michael's and Krystal Rodriguez - SJH.

Division III essay awards was presented by Wanda Faldyn representing Industry State Bank - New Ulm Branch. Winners include first place - Kaitlyn Ses-

tak - St. Michael's, second place - Colten Smith - St. Michael's and third place - Kendall Baumbach - St. Michael's.

County Agent Sally Garrett with Texas AgriLife Extension Service introduced the County Ag Partners and gave a brief summary of activities. Gloria Ilse (Farm Bureau) recognized the Women in Ag series participants. Certificates were presented to the WIA participants by Kleimann and the ladies received flags courtesy of Deborah Herring, WOW representative. WIA includes Doris Albright, Marjorie Brune, Sharon Grahmann and Doris Hattermann.

Lawrence Brown, Jr., program specialist from the TSSWCB, Wharton Regional Office and Sally Garrett were recognized by the CSWCD board of directors for their dedication to the District. Awards were presented by Kleimann and Calvin Mahalite, Zone IV director.

Director Mahalite announced Shannan Gerik, Columbus Elementary teacher as the Ted Schultz Conservation Teacher Award recipient. Michael and Dorothy Wostarek (Black Creek Drilling) presented the award. Director Hudec announced Roxanne Hartley as the recipient of the Ted Schultz Conservation Teacher Award. Rose Ford representing Capital One presented the award. Director Shimek announced Sharon Grahmann as the Conservation Homemaker Award. Patrick Moeller of First State Bank presented the award to Tina Stavinoha who was standing in for her mother.

George Poppe of the Columbus Lion's Club announced Stavinoha Cattle (Leroy, Tina, Amelia and Robert Stavinoha) as the Resident Conservationist with John Crews (Lion's Club) presenting the award.

Banquet sponsors include, First State Bank, Hill Bank and Trust, Industry State Bank - New Ulm Branch, Black Creek Drilling, Capital One, Colorado Valley Communications, Elliott and Waldron Abstract Company, Colorado County Rice Mill, M-G Farm Service Center, Fayette Savings Bank, First National Bank, Wiese Crop Insurance, Ken Kram Insurance, Prosperity Bank, Howard Raabe Conservation Contractor, Wharton County Electric Cooperative, Seifert & Son, Inc., Corner Feed Store, Deborah Herring - WOW Representative, Columbus Lions Club and Makes Scents (Joanne Klauber).

Rev. Jeffrey Marsh gave the closing prayer and CSWCD chairman Kleimann gave closing remarks.

### A very heartfelt THANK YOU

from the Lions Club District 2S-5 3rd Annual "Roaring at Randy's" to all of our sponsors that allowed for a very successful event on March 01, 2008

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