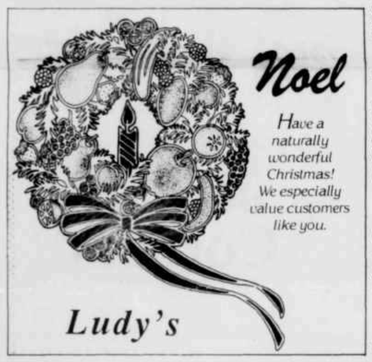
May the joys and peace of His birth be with you today and always. Bless you all.
The Snack Center
Sam & Wanda, Brian & Leslie
Center and Employees
Eagle Lake

Don we now our gay apparel...and our holiday thoughts of love, peace and harmony throughout the world.
Weimar Sheet Metal Works
and Employees
Eagle Lake and Weimar



name is Sasha and she eats more than the reindeer. Merry Christmas.

Your friend,
Blake

P.S. How do you get into little chimneys?

Dear Santa,

I wish I could have another puppy because my dog B.J. is very lonesome by himself. I have a few questions. What happens when you come down a chimney with a fire in it? How do you get around the world in one night? Why did you choose Christmas Eve to give out all the presents? Well I geuss that's all I have to say in my letter to you.

Your friend,
Sarah Matthews

Dear Santa,

I want to know how you get around the world in one night. I also want to know if you've forgotten anyone at Chistmas. P.S. I have been very good. Here is a list of what for Christmas: 1. A Four-wheeler, 2. An Engine for my gocart, 3. A skateboard, 4. A bell off of a reindeer's harnes, 5. C.B.

Your friend:
Jared Vawter

Dear Santa,

I have been a good boy. I hope I will see you this Christmas. I will be happy to see you again. This Christmas I am wishing for a goldcar and a horn and a bike. Merry Christmas!

Your friend,
Lance

Dear Santa,

Santa I am very excited about Christmas coming. I have a lot of gift's and I don't know what they are. I would like it if you would write back to me. Now I am going to tell you what I want. I would like a cornsilk cabbage patch kid. and a pogo ball. That is all I want.

Your friend,
Urbana Vasquez

Dear Santa,

I want to know how you go down the chinney without burning yourself. So let's talk about what I want for Christmas. I want a scooter and some clothes. I want some more Reeboks and a ticket to visit my mom. Sant that is what I want for Christmas. Santa, tried to give me the ticket so I can go see my mom.

Your friend,
Carlos Tovar

Dear Santa,

If people don't have a chimney how do you get inside? By the way I want: Talking Cabbage Patch Kid, Teddy Ruxpin, Doll stroller, Talking Dozey, Also a wardrobe of clothes, Swatch Watch, Electric Organ, Pogo Ball. Although I can't get all of this I wnt most of it.

Your Friend,
Jessica Amos

P.S. Mom and Dad you gotta get me something at least PLEASE! Or I will runaway!

Dear Santa,

Please do not disturb my sleep because when I wake up I am really grouchy. At night I might smash my head into my door. I am really exited about you coming this year. Now let's get down to business. I want a scooter and a remote control car. That is all until next year. This is Caesar Buitrago.

Your Believing Friend,
Caesar Buitrago

Dear Santa, How do you manage to get around the whole wide world in one night. To me that would be a miracle. Is it fun or what. I have been doing good. In school working on grade level. For Christmas I want an organ with a drum keyboard. I also want a eletric guitar and some transformers. I also want some clothes and 200000000092. dollars instant cash.

Your friend,
Steven Grant

Dear Santa,

How do you get around the whole world in one day? And now I want to tell you what I want for Christmas. I want a remote control buggy for Christmas! And I want a gold bell off of the reindeer. I believe there is a real Santa Claus. I do not have a chimney. So we will leave the door open. I will put cookies and milk on the table!

Your Friend,
Delano Frnka

Dear Santa,

I wish you could come to my house on Christmas Eve. I wish you could bring me a bike, and a crossfire, and a black faded jacket. I also want a pair of Nicky Air Force!

Your Friend,
Draper Parker

Dear Santa,

I want a 5 speed bike for Christmas. I'm going to warn you that if you see smoke coming from the chimny the fireplace is lit, or my mom the stove on. She probubbly wants a Trans Am.

Your friend,
Leon

Dear Santa,

I want a remote control helicopter, car and ,999,999,999 dollars!!! I want food for the poor and shelter!!! I want a trip to shockholm and a good Christmas for all.

Your Friend,
Andre

Dear Santa,

I have a problem, see my favorite Uncle Billy died and it is really spoiling my Christmas.

I hope nothing is spoilling your christmas. I don't think anything can cheer me up. I don't sleep and I can't eat or anything. It seems that the only thing that can cheer me up is for everyone to have a merry Christmas.

So have a nice trip, hear.

Love, Jimmy Aubrey

Dear Santa,

I hope you are doing fine. And that you can bring us some nice gifts. When you come we will have your favorite cookies that your wife always bakes. And when you come to the Post Office I will bring you a gift for bringing ours.

Your friend,
Wendy Henderson

Dear Santa,

When I wake up on Christmas day, I hope I will have a computer. I wish there was peace and love all over the world. And Russia could have a Bible. I wish that there would be no murder or abusing children. And that there would be freedom all over the world.

Love,
Laulita D. Deville

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a swimming pool and a pair of boots. I wish I could get a new bike, a new phone, and some clothes.

Most of all, I wish all of the people of Russia would start going to church.

How are you, and your elves doing? Fine I hope.

Bye for now.

Your friend,
Michelle Spanihel

Dear Santa,

I wish Russia could have a Merry Chritmas like I will. I also wish no one would abuse children. I wish no one would be hungry on christmas. I wish every one could go to church in Russia. I wish every one in the world world would not fight on Christmas. I wish every one would get at least one present. I also wish everyone and their leaders would let them celebrate on Christmas day. I also wish I had a pair of skates for Christmas.

Your friend,
Robin Donner

Dear Santa,

How are you doing up at the North Pole? HOpe you are fine and so, let's get down to business. Know what I would like! For everybody to be happy. Have food and enjoy Christmas. Also I would like some toys and clothes. My list for this year is Wheel of Fortune, Keri and David, Tropical Barbie set, Radio, and Hot Look. It was nice talking to you.

Your friend,
Cortney Parker

Dear Santa,

I hope you don't get sick this year. This Christmas I want peace for Russia, and for children not to be abused by parents. Well I have to go.

Love,
Jodi Heard

Dear Santa,

I want for Christmas is for the world to be free and for Russia to get along with the United States. I would like to poor people to eat as much as they can and for the State that has the erathquake to be safe. And I would like some toys and clothes.

Your frined
Ana Esparza

Dear Santa,

I hope you can come to my house on Christmas eve some times. I am not there. I'll be at my grandma's house. Christmas eve last year was a happy Christmas eve. I wish all people in Russia would go to church, and people would stop abusing their children. I wish my brother would get well soon.

Love, Trinity Leon

Dear Santa,

I wish that all the people even the Russians, could have happiness all over the world. And I wish one more thing that no more children would get abused.

Love, Patrick D. Shropshire

Dear Santa,

I wish every one would not fight and have world peace. I wish Russia would not shoot people. I wish every one would love each other.

Love Aundre Hatton

Dear Santa,

I hope everyone will have a nice Christmas Eve. Please send your elves to give out presents to good people. Please give cloths and food to the needing people. Santa will you make every thing go right? I hope everyone has a party. And Most of all, help men and women to stop smoking.

Love, Rossi Lujan

Dear Santa,

I wish the United States and Russia could have peace. And the poor people could have just a good Christmas. I want the Russian people to haye a good Christmas too.

Your friend,
Guadalupe Ybarbo

Dear Santa,

I wish for everybody to be free. I wish for world peace. I wish for everybody to be happy. I wish for everybody to be able to understand each other.

Your friend,
Brian Avery

Dear Santa,

This year I want world peace and set of Construx and a Capton power Phantom Striker.

Your friend,
Jeremy Stevens

Dear Santa,

Why don't the Russian's be our friends instead of being our enemies? We don't want to fight them. My wish is that everybody will have peace and freedom and Russia will let their people have a Merry Christmas like we have here. What is your wish?

Your Friend,
Michael Wiese

Dear Santa,

I would like for the whole world not to fight. So we could all be happy and free. And for everybody not to say bag things. And my second wish is for people not to kill all the animals.

Love, Antonia Moreida

Dear Santa,

For christmas, I would like peace all over the world. For every body to have a merry Christmas. I want people to get what they want.

Your friend,
Kristi Gertson

Other Santa Letters

Dear Santa,

We want to wish you a Merry Christmas to you and your elfs, We want a talking Mickey Mouse and a Cabbage Patch Baby for our baby sister.

Brittany and Lindsey
and Patricia Ruiz

This is our address: 1003 East E Street, Eagle Lake, Texas

Buy toys designed for child's age group

As the holiday season nears, toy shoppers should be sure the gifts they choose fit the age of the child, a Baylor College of Medicine pediatrician warns.

Safety should be a major consideration when buying toys for infants and toddlers whose inquisitive nature makes them play with toys in ways they aren't intended for.

It's important to look at the age the toy was designed for," Dr. W. Daniel Williamson, assistant professor of pediatrics at Baylor, said. "Besides the safety factor, if you give a child a toy that's for older children, the child may get frustrated."

Williamson said children under three should have toys that are unbreakable, made of nontoxic materials, and without sharp edges or points. They should not have small parts to be small enough to lodge in the windpipe, ears or nostrils.

He also said that toys should be chosen with the idea of helping the child develop gross motor skills, which involve using the large muscles and fine motor skills, which involve eye and hand coordination. For example, playing baseball would help develop both gross motor skills and eye-hand coordination.

Fine and gross motor skills begin developing at birth. Infants progress from looking at their hands to picking up objects with the entire hand and moving the object from one hand to the other.

One-year-olds begin developing gross motor skills by climbing and walking. Their fine motor skills improve as they learn to pick up objects with two fingers instead of the entire hand. They like to manipulate objects, such as making toys work, stacking objects and doing puzzles with large pieces.

At age two, children begin to draw and start engaging in "pretend" play. They also like to walk and run, and their interests change quickly.

Williamson said that beginning at age three, children refine their skills and like to run, skip and hop. They also develop an even greater interest in pretend play, and want to work with their hands.

He had some specific suggestions on what types of toys are best according to a child's age:

•From birth to six months: toys that are bright, make noise, lightweight and easy to grasp.

•Children between seven months and a year old: toys they can poke, bang, squeeze, empty and fill.

•One-year-olds: action toys that produce movement or sounds and are lightweight and brightly colored.

•Two-year-olds: pencils, colors, clay and complex puzzles.

•Three-year-olds: pedal toys such as tricycles.

•Four-year-olds: bikes with training wheels and toys with detailed working parts.

•Five and six-year-olds: braiding and weaving kits and mechanical toys.

Have A Safe and Happy Holiday Season
Texas Coalition for Safety Belts

Christmas Blessings
Hope your Christmas is bright with love and joy. We thank you for your support.
Eagle Tractor, Inc.
Employees

Eagle Lake Headlight

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newsbriefs

Four county bridges to be replaced

Four bridges in Colorado County will be replaced under a program approved recently by the Texas Highway and Public Transportation Commission. The four are among 498 bridges on county and city roadways to be replaced over the next five years.

Thirty-two bridges in the 11-county Yoakum highway department district will be replaced at a cost of $9.5 million.The 1987-1991 off-state system federal aid bridge replacement and rehabilitation program provides 80 percent funding with federal money.The other 20 percent is provided by the county or city that owns the bridge.

Bridges to be replaced in Colorado County are East Sandy Creek south of US 90A on Shell Road, "noname draw" west of FM 102 at Matthews, Little San Bernard River north of the Bernardo Community and Skull Creek north of Rock Island.

Sebesta announces as candidate for county attorney

Steve Sebesta has announced his candidacy for county attorney in the Colorado County Democratic Primary on March 8. "For those who do not know me, I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. I was born on September 28, 1950 in Columbus, Texas. My parents are George and Tina Sebesta of Bernardo. I grew up in the Bernardo community of Colorado County, and except for being away at college, have lived there all my life."

"I graduated from Columbus High School in 1969. In 1973 I received a bachelor's degree from Texas A & M University, and I received my law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1976."

"I currently practice law in Columbus and am a member of the law firm of Gates, Stein & Sebesta.

"I am a member of St. Roch's Catholic Church in Mentz, Texas."

"To be a good county attorney, I believe it is essential to have the respect of, not only the citizens of the county, but specifically of the peace officers, county officials, and municipal officials of the county. The county attorney must work closely with these people. I believe I have the respect of many officers and officials who know me and with whom I have worked. I will work hard to keep that respect and to earn the respect of those with whom I have not yet worked. I look forward to personally meeting as many Colorado County voters as I can before the election to talk about the job of county attorney and why I feel I am qualified to do that job. Thank you."

Fish farming conference set

What kinds of facilities work best for raising catfish and other types of aquaculture?

That question will be the focus of the 1988 Texas Fish Farming Conference and Annual Convention of the Fish Farmers of Texas here Jan. 27-28.

The two-day conference will be at the Rudder Center on the Texas A&M University campus.

This year's conference program will highlight the design and construction of aquaculture facilities, points out Dr. Joe Lock of Overton, fisheries specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and conference coordinator.

Workshops also will be conducted that deal with marketing of aquaculture products, legal requirements, and updates on research programs and the aquaculture industry at the state and national level.

According to Lock, the conference also will feature a trade show dealing with various products and equipment related to the aquaculture industry.

The conference is conducted annually to provide timely and relevant information to fish farmers and others engaged in aquaculture, says Lock. There are topics of interest to both large and small producers. Experienced producers as well as beginners should find the conference profitable.

Perry files for constable

John Perry, Eagle Lake contractor, filed Tuesday as a Democratic candidate for constable for the Eagle Lake precinct.

He is seeking the post now held by J.T. Frnka who said Tuesday that he will not seek re-election. Frnka has been constable for this precinct since 1964 and will continue to serve through Dec. 31 of next year.

Although the justice of the peace and constable precincts will be consolidated from eight to four in two years, the next constable will serve the Eagle Lake area precinct for four years. At the next JP election in 1990, and the next constable election in 1992, there will only be four positions open.

Perry said Tuesday that if elected he would have a year to become a certified peace officer under state law enforcement standards. Constables elected prior to 1985 do not have to become certified. The filing fee was $300, Perry said.

Car stolen here found in Columbus

A suspect has been questioned in the weekend theft of a car from Lake Motors. According to Columbus police chief Bill Smith, the vehicle was spotted near St. Anthony's Church there, but the driver fled on foot before he could be arrested.

Police discovered the vehicle was stolen when they attempted to stop it because of a broken headlight. The driver jumped out of the car near the church. Because the vehicle was rolling toward the church, police attempted to stop it from hitting the church, before they pursued the driver. The car did roll to the front door area of the church but there was not extensive damage.

Smith said the driver was wearing gloves, and therefore no fingerprints could be taken to connect the suspect with the car theft.

Houston man murdered in Columbus

Thomas Toliver 23, of Houston was shot and killed early Christmas morning in Columbus. Police there have charged Theopolis Lewis, 37, of Columbus with the murder.

Toliver and Karren Lewis were leaving the Riverside Terrace in the 600 block of Back Street when they were stopped by Theopolis Lewis at the southwest corner of the parking lot, according to Columbus police chief Bill Smith.

Karen and Theopolis Lewis had been separated for six months.

According to the police report, the accused had been in the bar but left after an argument took place between the two men. When Mr. Lewis met the couple in the parking lot, he had a rifle and fired several shots at Toliver. It turned out the weapon had been stolen that evening from the Conners Ranch on U.S. 90 just outside of the Columbus city limits.

Continued on Back Page

Spanihel dissents

Commissioners fill sheriff's vacancy

Colorado County Commissioners approved the appointment of Bill Esterling as sheriff by a 3-1 vote during their meeting Monday.

The appointment fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Jim Broussard, who resigned on Dec. 10 as part of a plea bargain arrangement concerning indictments against him.

According to County Judge Lester Cranek, it is the duty of the commissioners court to fill only the vacancies left in such circumstances and the removal of a public official from office was the responsibility of the district judge.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Sonny Spanihel, who cast the lone dissenting vote against Esterling, believes it was not necessary to fill the sheriff's position by appointment and the deputy sheriff should serve as interim sheriff until the election in March.

He added any person who is named as interim sheriff would probably file as a candidate for sheriff anyway and an appointment now would give an unfair advantage to the person chosen to fill the vacancy.

Esterling will serve as sheriff until the general election in November. At that time, the person elected to the position will take over the duties of the office as soon as the votes are canvassed, rather than waiting until January. Esterling and Eagle Lake police chief Ben Johnson are the only two to have filed as Democratic sheriff candidates.

Tuesday Esterling said he was not going to appoint a chief deputy; Because the department now is one person short, since Broussard no longer is on the payroll, the new sheriff said he would hire another deputy and use him to increase patrols.

Esterling also said he felt his appointment may hinder, rather than help, his election effort. He said he would be quite busy the first month with department duties which would keep him from campaigning.

His first two tasks will be to create a new set of books for the department and begin a sheriff's department audit, with the help of county auditor Florence Zajicek. Esterling did not know whether Ms. Zajicek would complete the departmental audit, or whether it will be finished by an outside firm. He also said all the checking accounts for the department opened by Broussard would be closed and that one new checking account would be opened. Esterling also said a new inventory of departmental items will be taken.

In other business, policy was established for continuing education and training of the ambulance corps volunteers.

All classes must have prior approval from the county judge's office and only those seminars accredited for continuing education will be approved.

The court allotted $1,500 per year for each ambulance corps unit.

Commissioners also named the next four bridges approved for replacement. They are: precinct 1, Skull Creek Bridge on County Road 236; precinct 2, Sandy Creek Bridge on County Road 255; precinct 3, Cat Spring Road over Little San Bernard; and precinct 4, No Name Bridge on County Road 201.

Each precinct has to come up with 10 percent of the cost of replacement within 30 days. The highway department will do approved surveys and preparation for letting of contracts.

Agricultural outlook remains 'fairly bright'

The agricultural outlook for 1987 remains fairly bright, according to an economist in marketing with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System.

"Texas farm and ranch income will continue to be supported by strong cotton and cattle prices and sizable government payments," says Dr. Carl Anderson. He emphasizes that moderate inflation and a relatively low level of planted acreage will dampen the increase in production expenses.

"As a result, agricultural incomes in 1987 are expected to be up substantially from the depressed levels f recent years," Anderson predicts.

For 1988, the general outlook is highlighted by smaller world crop supplies, stronger demand, and high prices. Larger meat supplies will dampen livestock and poultry prices for the year ahead, however, he notes.

"Most Texas farmers and ranchers likely will experience stable income in the New Year. Lower prices for beef cattle, pork, poultry and cotton may about offset slightly higher prices for wheat, soybeans, corn and rice," Anderson says.

In the coming year, U. S. farm exports are expected to increase moderately because of law and competitive prices. The weaker dollar also will boost sales, the economist predicts.

He notes that farm financial stress is easing somewhat with improved incomes, lower land and capital costs. In addition, the downturn in farm land prices is beginning to show signs of stabilizing.

"The structure of agriculture continues to change in the direction of fewer and larger commercial farms that are integrating with supply and processing firms to increase efficiency. The result is higher and more stable income per family," Anderson says.

Many part-time farmers remain who derive most of their income off the farm. These families are seeking a rural lifestyle rather than farm income, in most instances. The result is fewer middle-sized farm operations, the economist adds.

Anderson adds that a modest increase in food prices of 2 to 4 percent is in prospect for 1988. Large meat supplies will probably dampen food price gains, he notes.

U. S. farmers are idling 70 million acres, and as a result, input sales have fallen sharply. Farmers are using cash flow to pay on debt, rather than purchasing inputs. Sales of manufactured inputs are down about 30 percent from the peak, due to the idled acreage, Anderson says.

Layoffs and plant closings in recent months have led to a rapid consolidation of input and processing industries. Exports of broilers, flour, soybean products, meat and other value added products have dropped sharply because of highly subsidized sales of these products by many foreign competitors. The European Economic Community paid out about $8.5 billion in direct export subsidies last year, Anderson reports.

"In summary, net farm income in 1988 may decline slightly from the improved level in 1987," Anderson says. The outlook is for continued gradual improvement in the global crop supply-demand situation. U. S. exports are expected to benefit from the growth in global demand and competitive U. S. prices, he adds.

"World animal-product output is expected to increase modestly in 1988, with expanded output of poultry and pork offsetting less beef and veal," Anderson says.

Candyce Dixon to open accounting firm here

Candyce Farris Dixon, CPA, has announced the opening of an accounting, audit and tax practice in Eagle Lake. The firm will be located at 104 West Post Office.

With an extensive tax background, Ms. Dixon has served as an audit partner for more than five years with Hereford, Lynch and Co. firms in Huntsville, Madisonville and College Station. Although resigning as a partner, she will continue a professional relationship with Hereford, Lynch.

A native of Eagle Lake and a 1971 honor graduate of Rice High School, Ms. Dixon attended Rice University, the Universities of Madrid and Seville in Spain and received her BBA in accounting from Sam Houston State University. She joined Hereford, Lynch in 1977 and was certified in 1979. Ms. Dixon is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Government Finance Officer's Association.

A past president of Huntsville's Business and Professional Women and United Way, Ms. Dixon also has been active with the city of Huntsville Planning Commission and Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce Tourism Council. She is the PTA president for Mance Park Junior High (Huntsville) and a member of the Walker County Genealogocial Society.

She is married to Dale Dixon, deputy superintendent of finance for the Huntsville Independent School District.

Candyce Farris Dixon

Jackson to seek state school post

Dr. J. Raleigh Jackson of LaGrange has announced as a candidate for a position on the State Board of Education in the March 8 Republican Primary.

Dr. Jackson has had experience at every level of education; a high school teacher in Alvin, Schulenburg and LaGrange, a university professor, Texas A&M, deputy superintendent and superintendent, Brazosport ISD, and junior college president Brazosport College (Lake Jackson). He served seven years on the A&M Consolidated ISD board of trustees (two years as president). He has also served as a member of the Texas Education Agency Commission on School Accreditation, member (two years as vice-chairman) of the Advisory Council for Technical and Vocational Education in Texas, and as co-chairman (two years) of the first Board of Directors of Region IV Education Service Center.

He is a life member of the Texas State Teachers Assn. and the Parent Teachers Assn., a past member of the Texas Assn. of School Boards, the Texas Association of School Administrators, National Education Assn. American Vocational Assn. and the Texas Vocational Assn.

Since retiring and moving back to LaGrange, where he started his professional life as a teacher, after 40 years education experience (which includes 4 years duty as an officer in the army during World War II) he has been active in his church, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Masonic Lodge, AARP, Retired Teachers Assn. of Fayette County. He was elected in 1986 to the First Texas Silver-Haired Legislature. He was elected by the 116 members as Speaker, a position which will expire in July, 1988. He has recently been appointed by gov. Clements to the newly created Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders.

State Board of Education members were elected from 1949 to 1984, but an appointed state board was one of the education reforms proposed by Texas billionaire Ross Perot's Senate Select Committee on Education passed by the Texas Legislature in 1984.

The reform bill called for a reduction from 27 to 15 board members, who were appointed by governor Mark White. It also stipulated that the board revert to an elected panel in 1988. Texas voters last month voted to return to the elected method of securing members.

Dr. J. Raleigh Jackson of LaGrange

District 5, which Jackson is seeking, is composed of 20 counties as follows: Austin, Bandera, Bexar (the northern half), Brazoria, Colorado, Comal, Fayette, Fort Bend, Gillespie, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Lavaca, Mason, Real, Waller, Washington, and Wharton.

Jackson stated that reform bill - SB72 - has resulted in many improvements in education in Texas but, as nearly all new broad based legislation,

Continued on Back Page

J. R. Hardin of Beasley

Hardin seeking state board seat

J. R. Hardin, 60, of Beasley is seeking the District 5 State Board of Education seat in the March 8 Democratic Primary.

District 5 contains all or part of Harris, Fort Bend, Brazoria, Wharton, Waller, Austin, Colorado, Lavaca, Washington, Fayette, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Bexar, Comal, Kendall,

Continued on Page Three