

Texas Capital Fund awarded to Eagle Lake

The Texas Department of Commerce Texas Capital Fund (Texas Community Development Program) awarded the City of Eagle Lake \$535,000 in support of Dunham Environmental Services Inc.

The Fund will be used specifically to assist in the construction of a building to be used in the incineration of medical waste, provide gravity sewer line and water line improvements and pave an existing road easement

in support of the company. The project will result in the creation of 22 jobs for the community.

"The Texas Department of Commerce is working in partnership with local communities to retain and assist the businesses we have in Texas, as well as encourage expansions and relocations," said Commerce Executive Director Brenda F. Arnett.

(See Awarded, Page 10)

Eagle Lake Headlight

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NEWSBRIEFS

G.A.T.E. program to be presented May 15

Would you like to be able to recognize gang and other youth problems? Come join the Eagle Lake Police Department and Crime Stoppers in a Gang Awareness Through Education (G.A.T.E.) program Thursday, May 15, at 7 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Primary School. The program, in English and Spanish, will be presented by Aldine ISD Police Departments Gang Task Force. See up close display items such as gang clothing, artwork, graffiti, etc. that officers will bring. Contact Chief Keith Webb at 234-7307 for more information.

Garwood Community Assoc. meeting May 5

The Garwood Community Association meeting will be held at the meeting room on Monday, May 5, at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

RHS Sport Banquet is May 8

The Rice High School (RHS) Sports Banquet will take place on Thursday, May 8, at 7 p.m. in the RHS commons. Tickets are \$6 per person and may be purchased from Coach Jackson at the high school.

Lay Witness Mission is this weekend

A Lay Witness Mission is scheduled at the Eagle Lake United Methodist Church May 2, 3 and 4. Rev. Barry Bauerschlag invites the public to attend. Many events are scheduled call the church for more information.

Seniors Dance is this Friday

A Senior Citizens Dance will be held Friday, May 2, at the Eagle Lake Community Center from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Music will be provided by The El Campo Melody Boys. Admission is \$5 per person and door prizes will be given. The public is invited to attend.

Study Club President's Luncheon is May 9

The Eagle Lake Study Club will hold their President's Luncheon at the Eagle Lake Community Center on Friday, May 9, at 12 noon. The guest speakers will be Mr. and Mrs. Tex Rodgers, publishers of the *Colorado County Citizen*. The program will be on education. You may purchase your tickets from the Wintermann Library for \$6 per person.

Temple Berea to hold garage sale

Temple Berea, located 621 Maple Street in Eagle Lake, will hold a garage sale Friday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. to noon. Along with the yard sale items, the church will also sell homemade tamales, tacos and soft drinks. All proceeds benefit the church building fund.

My Friend's House 'camp' to begin June 2

The United Methodist Church's My Friend's House will begin a Summer Camp program on June 2. The camp is offered to all pre-school and primary school children. Register by May 15 and take off 5% of the registration fee. Sign up a friend and take an additional discount. For more information, contact Gail Gertson at 409-234-3330.

ELPS to hold Cinco de mayo celebration

You are invited to come and join the Eagle Lake Primary School staff and students in the celebration of Cinco de mayo on Monday, May 5, at 1 p.m. in the ELPS cafeteria.

La celebracion del Cinco de mayo podra ser mas especial si ustedes estan presente! Lunes 5 de mayo, 1997 a la 1 p.m. de la trade en la cafeteria de la escuela de Eagle Lake Primary.

My Friend's House schedules registration

The United Methodist Church's My Friend's House is holding pre-registration for the 1997-98 school year. Programs are offered for all pre-school children. Contact Gail Gertson at 409-234-3330 for more information. Remember, enrollment is limited!!

PBC annual Family, Friends Day is May 4

Providence Baptist Church, 1207 E. State Street, Eagle Lake, Rev. Coby Shorter Jr., will hold their 28th Annual Family and Friends Day on Sunday, May 4, beginning at 3 p.m. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Don Cyphers of Pleasant Bethany Baptist Church in Elgin. Everyone is cordially invited.

Class of 1987 plans reunion

Rice High School Class of 1987 will be holding its 10 year reunion at the Eagle Lake Recreation Center (golf course) Saturday, May 31. Activities will begin at 10 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch for you and your family or guests. For more details, call Lesley Matthews at 409-234-5713 (daytime) or Stacey (Causey) Hlavinka at 409-335-7546 (evenings).

My Friend's House BBQ dinner is May 6

The United Methodist Church's My Friend's House is hosting a barbecue dinner Tuesday, May 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. You may pick up your plates, as well as tickets, from Austin's BBQ. For more information, call 234-3330.

E.H. Henry Historical Corp. meeting tonight

The E.H. Henry Historical Corporation regular monthly meeting will be held Thursday, May 1, at 7:30 p.m. at the E.H. Henry site.

Museum Thrift Shop open May 3, 24

The Prairie Edge Thrift Shop will be open this Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday, May 24. Be sure to stop by and check out their specials.

Juneteenth Celebration slated for June 14

A Juneteenth Celebration is slated for Saturday, June 14. Parade and booth entry deadline has been set for Sunday, June 1. A Mr. & Miss Juneteenth Contestants will also be chosen Friday, June 13. Deadline for entry is also June 1. For more information, call 234-5651, 234-2467, 234-5067 or 234-7948

Brune reunion scheduled for May 4

The annual Brune reunion will be held Sunday, May 4, at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic dining hall in Frelsburg. The reunion includes members of the Ludwig, Henry, George and Edward Brune families. You can meet new relatives and visit with those you know. A noon meal will be served by members bringing a basket lunch including a meat, vegetable and dessert. Utensils and drinks will be furnished. Let this be a large affair and notify all your family members.

Defensive driving course set for May 6, 7

A defensive driving course will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. May 6 and 7 at the Agriculture Building, 316 Spring, Columbus. Former DPS Sgt. Gilbert Keil will be the instructor. To pre-register, call 409-732-2734 or arrive a few minutes early for the first evening.

Texas Commission helps blind

Losing your vision doesn't mean losing your independence. The Texas (See Newsbriefs, Page 10)

RHS names top grads in Class of '97

Rice High School has named Marcie Till Valedictorian for the Class of 1997 and Sara Mann has been designated Salutatorian.

Honor graduates are four-year seniors: Bridget Baird, Nerrisa Brisco, Willie Cleveland, Sunny Gertson, Lance Grigar, Maria Hernandez, Rachelle Kallina, Trey Kucherka, Tim Powers, Robyn Rucka, Gina Sides, George Weller and three-year seniors Jessica Briscoe and Amanda Weishuhn.

Marcie, the daughter of Rudy and Sharon Till of Garwood, plans to graduate from college, have a successful job, then get married and have children. She will be attending Texas A&M University and major in business management.

Marcie is the FTA historian, Sen-

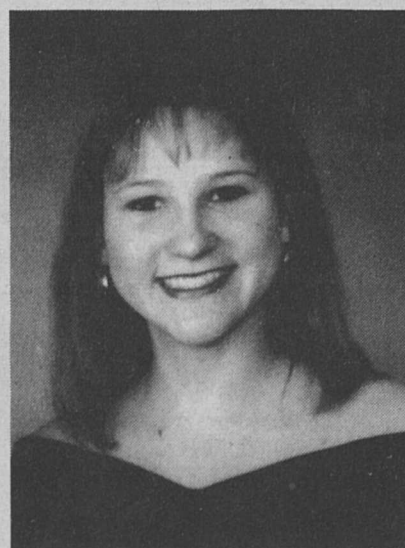
ior Class Secretary, a member of Flag Corps, National Honor Society, Student Council and plays golf. She enjoys hanging out and partying with her friends, watching movies and water skiing.

Her parents are her role models because they taught her to be herself and always do her best.

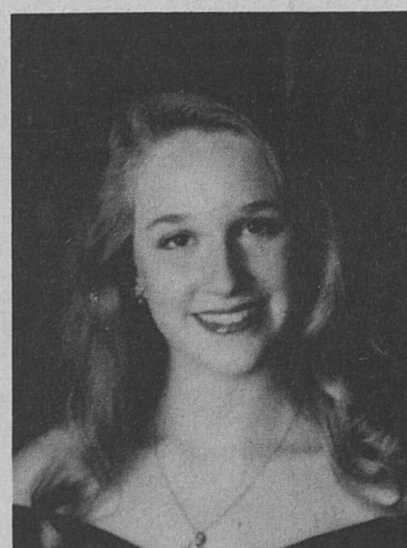
Marcie's most memorable moments are Spring Break in Victoria, prom decorating parties, weekly trips to Casa with her friends, study parties at Carrie's house and being part of the Nova Crew.

Sara plans to attend either Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, and major in drama performance, or the University of Texas at Austin and major in theatre.

(See Honors, Page 8)



1997 Valedictorian
Marcie Till



1997 Salutatorian
Sara Mann

County won't reduce jps, constables

A committee to determine the fate on the number of justices of the peace and constables in Colorado County on Monday recommended to Commissioners' Court the number remain at four.

The recommendation was backed by a unanimous vote from the Court.

The committee, chaired by Walt Glasscock, was appointed in March to conduct a study on the feasibility of reducing the number of justices of the peace and constables from four to two.

In addition to Glasscock, committee members included Sheriff R.H. "Curly" Wied, Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Dodie Dungen, Precinct 3 Constable Ivan Menke, Eagle Lake Police Chief Keith Webb, Superintendent Wayne Wise of the Weimar Independent School District, Carolyn Easton and Jennifer Stancik.

In looking at the pros and cons, the committee found "very few" pros in making the change.

"It would probably increase the salaries of the two remaining justices of the peace and constables," the com-

mittee reported in its findings.

The big question raised was the financial feasibility of reducing the

courts to two.

"We, the committee, have looked at it from every angle and feel that it would only cost the taxpayers more money," the committee report stated.

"First, you would have to increase the salary of the JPs and constables. With the combining of work into only two offices, there would be a need for more clerical help.

"What about office space? None of the existing offices have room to add more people, plus the added equipment that would be essential."

The committee's report said that the County could keep the other two offices as sub-offices, manned only by clerical personnel, but that would defeat the purpose and increase the cost even more because computers would have to be linked together.

"Conservatively figuring, combining the precincts will definitely cost the County even more money. Whether it's \$1 or \$75,000, closer to the latter, we still have less and it will cost us more," the report said.

There were a number of other areas that alarmed the committee.

In its written report, they stated that "the JP Court is the people's court and, if the number was reduced to two, some areas of the County would be left without a court."

Although they would have a court (See Commissioners, Page 10)

Fayette Savings robbed Thursday at gun point

With bank robberies more than doubling in Houston in 1997 over 1996, the crime apparently has spread to smaller towns in Texas.

On April 24, between 9 and 9:30 a.m., Fayette Savings, located on Hwy. 71 in Columbus, was robbed at gun point by two black males.

According to Columbus Police Chief Robert Connor Jr., the suspects left the bank on foot, ran through the Columbus Arms Apartments and were picked up by a black female in a green Ford Explorer in the parking lot of the Columbus Community Hospital.

The suspects then left Columbus, travelling south on Hwy. 71.

The FBI and Texas Ranger Brian Taylor were called in to assist in the investigation. As of press time, no arrests had been made.

With two officers being added...

Council okays additional patrol vehicle

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

During last week's Eagle Lake City Council meeting, Police Chief Keith Webb announced the Department has added two new officers.

The employment of Tim Crume and Bill Lattimore was made possible by the Department of Justice COPS Grant awarded to Eagle Lake.

Crume is presently an Eagle Lake reserve officer. Lattimore is coming from the Columbus Police Department where he serves as a lieutenant. Lattimore was a county sheriff's deputy prior to joining Columbus.

Crume assumed duties this week with Lattimore beginning May 8.

Two new officers will join Webb, Lt. Clem Johnson, Sgt. Jack Knox, and Officers Carl Risk and Brian Ochoa to give the department seven full-time officers plus its reserve force.

According to Webb, the additions will allow a full-time officer to man every shift. Reserve officers will now be riding with a full-time officer to form a two-man shift.

"More important is the fact that we can now have an officer actively patrolling week days," said Webb.

He told Council that presently Johnson is the only daytime officer besides himself on duty weekdays and, since Johnson is the investigator for the department, this leaves no patrolling officer during the day.

Council approved the three-year lease-purchase of a new Ford Crown Victoria for the police department at a base price of \$19,788.45.

Since Eagle Lake's sole car dealer is unable to get the "police interceptor package", the purchase is being made through the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Webb told Council that, with the two officers, the additional patrol car and rearrangement of shift hours to allow for some overlapping shift duties, the department will be able to have periods of double patrol during peak "trouble" and crime times, such as weekends.

Council authorized publication of notice of intent to issue certificates of obligation in the amount of \$1 million for street improvements. The ordinance to issue bonds will be brought to

Council on June 10.

The "right to petition" by the public declaring pro or con for the street project and issuance of the certificates (See Council, Page 10)

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending April 28.

On April 23, at 11:45 a.m., Chief Keith Webb and Lt. Clem Johnson assisted Dulany Funeral Home with an escort.

At 1:20 p.m., Lt. Johnson and Chief Webb located two subjects known to have outstanding warrants. Stella Woodson and Nelson Ray Dabney were brought to the police department where Ms. Woodson paid her fine. Mr. Dabney was processed and transported to the County Detention Center (CDC) for confinement.

At 2:45 p.m., the police department received a report of a suspicious subject on Clark Street. Chief Webb searched the area, but he was unable to locate the vehicle.

At 3:51, Lt. Johnson met with a complainant at the police department who reported windows broken out of her house. A report was filed and the case is under investigation.

At 4:40 p.m., Officer Carl Risk made contact with a subject wanted on outstanding warrants. Roland Hayes Hemphill III was arrested processed at the police department then transported to CDC for confinement.

At 5:24 p.m., Officer Risk received a call concerning a fight between two juveniles in progress. After investigating, both juveniles were cited for disorderly conduct-fighting in public.

At 11:47 p.m., Officer Brian Ochoa was dispatched to Lake Avenue in reference to a juvenile out past curfew. Ochoa made a search for the juvenile, but was later advised the subject had returned home.

On April 24, at 12:01 a.m., Officer Ochoa conducted a traffic stop on Lakeside Drive which resulted in the

driver of the vehicle, Gary W. Ebarra, being arrested for driving while intoxicated (DWI). After processing at the police department, he was transported to CDC for confinement.

At 12:07 p.m., a warning citation was issued by Lt. Johnson for burning inside the City limits.

At 8:35 p.m., Sgt. Jack Knox was dispatched to First Street in reference to a runaway juvenile. A juvenile report was filed.

On April 25, at 12:18 a.m., Officer

Risk conducted a traffic stop in the 900 block of E. Main which resulted in the driver, Buster Wayne Shuler, being arrested for driving with a suspended license. A computer check on Shuler showed outstanding warrants from two other counties. After processing at the police department, he was transported to CDC for confinement.

At 5:19 p.m., Sgt. Knox was dispatched to First Street in reference to (See Police, Page 4)

G.A.T.E. program set for May 15 at Primary School

Would you like to be able to recognize gang and other youth problems?

Join the Eagle Lake Police Department (ELPD) and Crimestoppers as they present the Aldine I.S.D. Police Department's Gang Task Force.

Parents, teachers, grandparents, interested citizens and family members are invited to come and join the Eagle Lake Police Department and Crime Stoppers in an interesting learning experience. The Gang Awareness Through Education (G.A.T.E.) program will be presented by nationally recognized Aldine I.S.D.'s Gang Task Force in English and Spanish.

The program will be Thursday, May 15, at 7 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Primary School, 600 Johnnie D. Hutchins Drive, Eagle Lake.

Questions will be answered, such as why do kids join gangs? (1) they feel that there is no other choice; (2) to much unsupervised time; (3) peer

pressure; (4) friends and family members belong to a gang; (5) wanting recognition, sense of belonging, companionship; (6) poor communication and decision making skills.

All teachers and parents of school age or younger children owe it to themselves and their own families to attend.

The one hour program will include a question and answer forum and will conclude with free refreshments.

Then stay around to enjoy the refreshments and visit with the officers so you can see the many display items they will have.

When you leave, you will be able to detect gang and other youth problems and recognize them before they destroy your family and our community.

For more information, contact Eagle Lake Police Chief Keith Webb at 409-234-7307.