

CCHFH to build next home in Weimar

Colorado County Habitat for Humanity (CCHFH) is making plans to build a home in Weimar in the year 2001.

After having completed their second home in Eagle Lake in May of this year, CCHFH is eager to provide affordable, decent housing to those in need in other areas of Colorado County.

Unfortunately, acquisition of land in Weimar has slowed the process up a bit as a Habitat home is built with volunteer money and sweat, CCHFH tries to be a good steward of resources, and this includes trying to get building sites donated either by individuals, city or service organizations.

The two homes in Eagle Lake are built on land donated by Revitalize Eagle Lake, Inc. (Thank you Eagle Lake!).

The potential building site must have a clear title, be large enough to support a Habitat home (typically 1000 sq. ft.) and may have existing structures which could be removed or rehabilitated.

Advantages to donating land to CCHFH include:

1. Your contribution (market value of the lot) is tax-deductible.
2. Relieves you of the burden of maintenance and annual taxes.
3. The satisfaction of knowing that you have helped provide decent housing for a neighbor in need.

Many people are concerned that Habitat is a low-income, give-away

housing project and that the families moving in will not maintain the home. Many people are concerned that a Habitat home will decrease the value of the surrounding properties. We would like to address these concerns, as they are shared by a number of citizens throughout the country.

1. Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical, Christian housing ministry. It has no ties with government except to occasionally accept funding for land acquisition and infrastructure (roads, utilities, etc) or through the direct donation of land. Any funding from a government agency must be "no strings attached", i.e. there is no interference by government in Habitat policies or procedures. Although Habitat is a Christian ministry, all persons, regardless of their beliefs, are invited and encouraged to partner with Habitat.

2. Homeowners are chosen by application process on the bases of the following three criteria:

a. **Need for housing.** CCHFH goal is to abolish substandard housing here in Colorado County and throughout the world.

This is not a program for persons who are able to rent decent housing but can not afford to own their own home. To be considered for Habitat ownership, the person or family must currently be living in substandard

housing (unsafe or inadequate structure, overcrowded conditions, etc).

b. **Ability to pay.** Homeowners buy Habitat homes through Habitat using a 15-30 year (depending on the family's need) no-profit, no-interest loan. Average Habitat homes (3 bedroom, one bath) in this area cost approximately \$35,000. Homeowners also pay any associated taxes (added to their monthly mortgage payments in escrow) and a 2% down payment is required at closing. Mortgage payments to back into CCHFH to be used in the construction of more Habitat houses.

c. **Willingness to Partner.** Prospective homeowners are required to volunteer 300 hours in the construction of their home. This involvement fosters pride in the home, an understanding of what is involved in maintenance of a house, and more importantly, a sharing of community with other volunteers.

3. Habitat homes are well-constructed, meeting all building codes and specs. All materials used are new and foundation, plumbing and electric are all done by licensed professionals. In housing studies, the presence of Habitat homes in a neighborhood did not adversely affect land values, and in many cases improved the neighborhood desirability as many professional builders will follow Habitat's lead in community development.

CCHFH is excited about working with the Weimar community as people from all over the county get involved in providing decent housing for their neighbors.

Weimar has already supported Habitat in a number of ways. The Weimar United Methodist Church has been a generous contributor to Habitat through the Weimar Foundation. Grant money received from the Foundation will be used in the upcoming Weimar build.

Coastal Banc of Weimar has also been a strong supporter of CCHFH, donating funds for our previous builds.

Chuck Coy, current resident of Weimar, was our construction supervisor for the past build in Eagle Lake.

Rev. Ralph Ludwig of the Weimar United Church of Christ is our new Church Relations head.

There are numerous others in the Weimar area who have contributed

their time and money and we thank everyone for their involvement!

If you or your organization would like to become involved in CCHFH's 2001 build, please call 1-800-243-5269 and leave a message. We will return your call as quickly as possible.

Or if you are a church organization, please call Rev. Ludwig at 979-725-8315.

"It is always easier to believe than to deny. Our minds are naturally affirmative."

— John Burroughs



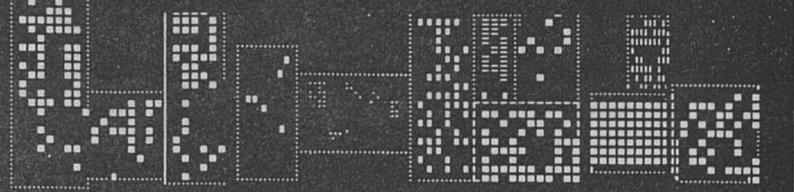
Celebrating 102 years

Marie Sexton, a resident of the Heritage House in Eagle Lake, celebrated her 102nd birthday Monday, Sept. 25, with a party given by the Heritage House staff.

After presentation of a City resolution by Mayor Pro-tem Barbara Pidgeon, refreshments were served. Sexton also received a certificate of recognition from the State of Texas.

Heritage House Photo

ABOUT TOWN...



•Scott Ray Bittner of Garwood and Dustin Ray Guthman of Lissie earned a place on the Dean's Honor Roll for the summer quarter in Texas State Technical College classes at the Texas Marine Education Center in Palacios.

Bittner is a student in the Diesel Mechanics program and the son of

Paul and Annette Bittner of Garwood. Guthman, also in the Diesel Mechanics program, is the son of Tommy Guthman of Lissie.

The Dean's Honor Roll recognizes the scholastic achievement of those students with a 3.5 to 3.99 grade point average for the quarter.

•Cadet Russell Barrett Thomas, son of Dr. Russell and Robin Thomas of Austin and formerly of Eagle Lake, was named to the Dean's List spring semester at the U.S. Military Academy. To qualify for the Dean's List, a cadet must maintain a 3.0 grade point average.

A graduate of Rice High School Class of 1999, he plans to graduate from West Point in 2003 and be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Barrett is the grandson of Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Thomas of Eagle Lake.

•Leon Hattermann, Dean Venghaus and Charles Harbich, Colorado County Farm Bureau Directors, attended the Texas Farm Bureau Legislative Conference held Sept. 13 in Austin.

Issues such as state inheritance, redistricting, water and Texas politics in 2000 were discussed with the senators and representatives. Dinner speaker Wednesday night was House Speaker Pete Laney.

Happenings at Garwood School

By Margaret Henry

Things have already been very busy for the students and staff at Garwood School.

There are some new faces at Garwood this year. Wendy Dornak joins the staff and teaches second grade. Kathi Gabig also is new to Garwood. She came to our campus from Katy ISD and teaches third grade.

Garwood School has two new coaches. John Post and Lindsay Bujnoch are in charge of the junior high athletes. Coach Post also teaches social studies and history, while Coach Bujnoch also teaches language arts and reading and PE with the lower elementary grades.

Angela Richter and Lacy Orsak have also joined the staff. Ms. Richter is in charge of the junior high science and Ms. Orsak is the band director.

Athletics is in full swing for both boys and the girls of the seventh and eighth grade. The boys are again combining with the students from Eagle Lake and Sheridan to form the junior high football teams. The girls have been competing against area schools in volleyball.

Along with the athletics comes pep rallies. Cynthia Boenisch is the cheerleader sponsor. Cheerleaders for this year are Kaylynn Boenisch, Jenna Cook, Laura Engstrom, Ashley Labay, Alyson Lanier, Mandy Staff, Kristen Danklefs and Katie Hoffman. Jessica Engstrom is the manager of the cheerleaders. The pep rallies are held on Thursdays when there is a home

football game.

The flag corps and twirlers are also participating in these pep rallies. Flag corps member are Bridget Kaiser, Audrey Drlik and Bernadette Jurica. This year's twirlers are Theresa Henry and Kayla Wishert.

Recently, Garwood School hosted a special luncheon in observance of Grandparent's Day. Students were encouraged to invite their grandparents. Over 100 grandparents visited Garwood School that day. Thanks to all grandparents who took time to come and join their grandchild for lunch.

Garwood Association of Parents has already had their first meeting. If you missed it, please call the school and find out about the time and date of the next meeting.

Oct. is Archeology awareness month

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is teaming up with the Council of Texas Archeologists and the Texas Archeological Society to celebrate Texas Archeology Awareness Month (TAAM) in Oct.

TAAM recognizes the spirit and depth of the state's heritage, from ancient Indian campsites to historic battle sites.

Activities and public forums provide opportunities to discover past human cultures and learn about the historical significance of Texas archeological sites and the importance of proper archeological practices.

Archeological organizations in 11 Texas cities will host Archeology Fair in Oct: Austin, Bryan, El Paso, Fort Worth, Jefferson, Lubbock, Midland, San Angelo, San Antonio, San Augustine and Victoria.

The fairs are fun events for the whole family and offer hands-on activities and demonstrations.

A brochure detailing these and other statewide events during TAAM is available by calling 512-463-6090 or 512-463-6096.

The events are also listed on the THC web site at www.thc.state.tx.us. For more information, contact: Archeology Division, THC, 512-463-6096.

Happy 2nd Birthday



Hadley & Reagan

Sept. 26 Sept. 29
Love, Sloan & Danielle

SHERIDAN SCHOOL NEWS

The Parents and Teachers of Sheridan (PTS) held their first monthly meeting of the school year Tuesday, Sept. 19, at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Principal Don Wild led the large group in the pledge followed by prayer led by Jack Vawter. President Sharla Miller welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited them to visit the classrooms afterwards.

Under new business, Miller announced that the financial records had been audited and met all requirements. A thank you card was read from Lillian Gohlke thanking the PTS for their continued support of the Summer Reading Program. Sixty-three children attended the program this year along with 36 adults.

Under old business, plans were discussed for the finalization of the upcoming Halloween Carnival, which will be held on Oct. 28 at Splashway Waterpark. The activities will begin at 5 p.m. with the Queen Contest, food booths opening at 6 p.m. carnival booths will open at 6:30 and the raffle prizes will be drawn at 8:30.

The fifth grade won the room count with 69% attending. The door prize was won by Johnna Benton.

Mr. Wild introduced the faculty and staff and made several school related announcements. He encouraged everyone to use this opportunity to visit the classrooms and meet with the teachers. Approximately 125 adults were present for the gathering.

PTS meets every third Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria.



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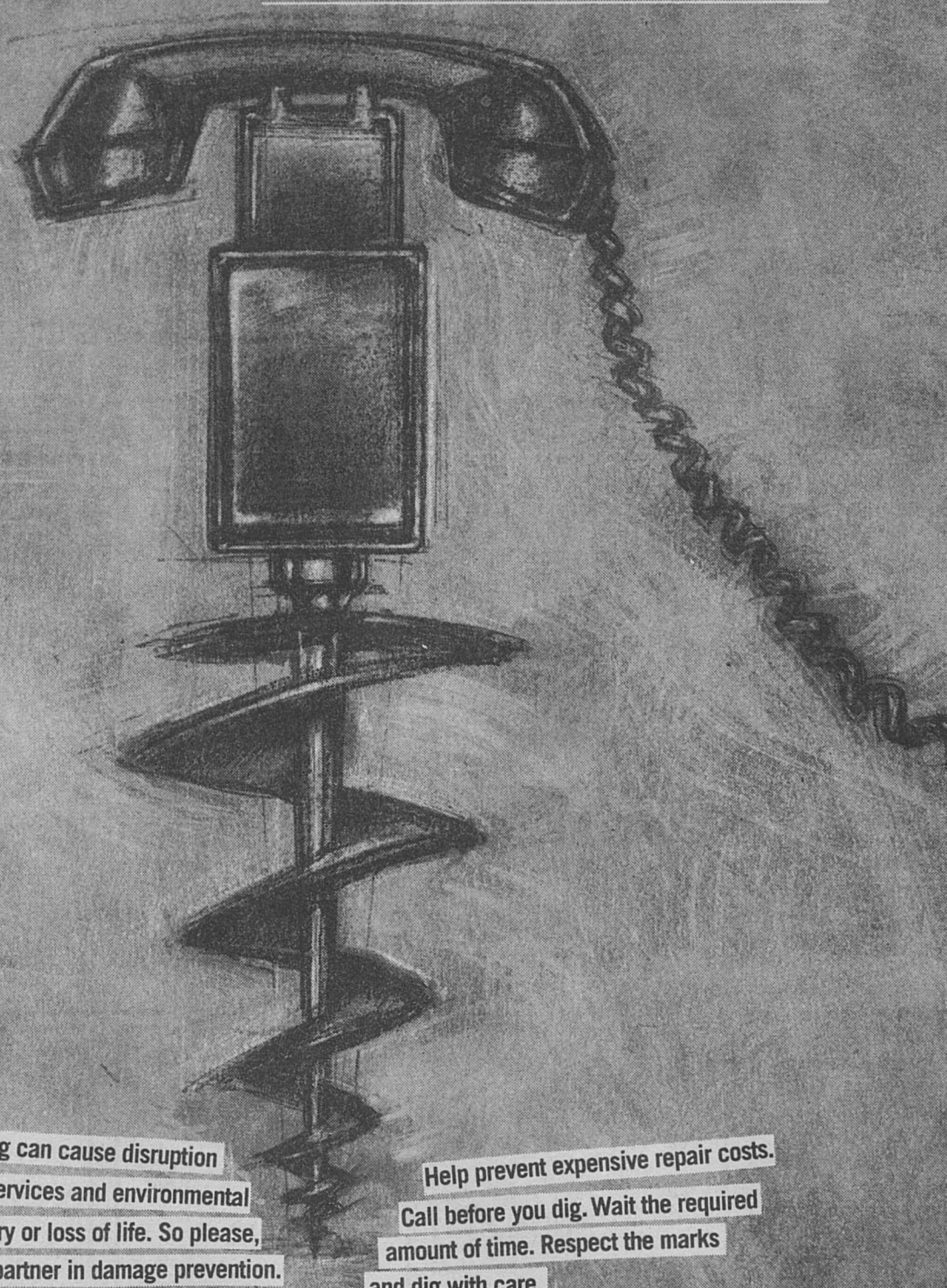
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