

# Marine PFC Yanez stationed in Japan, receives flag

Marine Private First Class Aaron J. Yanez has been deployed with a Combat Service Support Detachment in Iwakuni, Japan. Aaron the son of Jesse and Martha Yanez entered the U.S. Marine Corps June 21, 2004 after graduation from Rice High School.

Aaron received his 'boot camp' training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California, followed by basic infantry training at the School of Infantry at Camp Pendleton.

Yanez spent the last few weeks at the Service Support School at Camp Johnson - Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville, North Carolina. Aaron received special training in Supply.

Yanez returned home Nov. 17 with order for assignment to Combat Service Support at the Marine Air Wing Base at Iwakuni.

While on leave after basic training Aaron was present Sept. 26, when Living Hope Church Pastor Joe C. Fling made a special presentation.

A service banner with a blue star was hung in the sanctuary of Living Hope, "This tradition of each church having a banner with a star for each church member in the service of our country date from at least World War II," Pastor Fling said. "in this way the congregation has a physical reminder each Sunday that Aaron is in the service. This will help keep him on our hearts and minds and in their prayers."

Like a yellow ribbon on your car, or the photos at City Hall, our community is reminded to pray for and support all those serving our country.



From left to right are Martha Yanez, her son Aaron, and Pastor Joe Fling with the banner now hanging in Living Hope Church.

Photo Courtesy of the Living Hope Church

## Petition Statement

At the City Council meeting on December 14, 2004, a petition was presented to the City Secretary. As promised, I have consulted with the Attorneys from the Texas Municipal League and the City Attorney.

Concerning the petition that has been submitted, attorneys advise that the authority of a general law city to place a question on a ballot is limited to only those items specifically authorized by state statutes. The attorney advised that there are very few instances where state statutes authorize initiative petitions. Therefore, the City Council of the City of Eagle Lake cannot act on the petition submitted December 14 without violating state law.

Mayor and City Council

# Business owners urged to apply

## SBA economic injury loans available

Businesses in some Texas counties can now apply for low interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These loans are available to help businesses meet normal operating expenses that cannot be met due to the effects of a disaster. Excessive rain, flash flooding, flooding, hail, high winds, and wind shears that occurred June 15, 2004 and continuing, caused many farmers and ranchers to experience reduced incomes which may have had an adverse economic effect on businesses depending upon these producers. Farmers and ranchers are not eligible for this loan program but may be eligible for disaster assistance through other Federal agencies. However, nurseries that are victims of drought disasters can apply. Businesses in the following counties are eligible to apply: Austin, Brazos, Burleson, Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend, Grimes, Lee, Waller, Washington and Wharton.

To obtain an application or receive additional information, interested business owners may call the SBA toll-free at 1-800-366-6303 or TDD 817-267-4688 for the hearing impaired. The deadline for filing an application is Aug. 3, 2005.

Due to the weather, many producers experienced crop losses and were not able to purchase goods and services at normal levels. Businesses that are dependent upon these producers may have experienced decreased sales, reduced gross profit margins, increased accounts receivable or difficulty in moving inventories at normal levels. The loan can help a business meet installments on long-term debt, accounts payable and overhead expenses that would have been met had the disaster not occurred. Refinancing of long-term debt, however, is not eligible under this program. The loan is designed for those businesses with sustained disaster-related needs and is intended to supplement monies the business owner can provide from other sources.

Loans may be approved for up to \$1,500,000 for actual disaster-related financial needs of the business. Interest rates are 2.75% and terms may extend to 30 years, depending upon the repayment ability of the individual applicant. To qualify, business must be small by SBA's size standard. Businesses, which can meet their financial needs through other sources, are not eligible.

## DAR hears former Eagle Lake woman

The John Everett Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) met in the Eagle Lake home of Mrs. Joan Matthews on Dec 6. Regent Laura Ann Rau presided over the business meeting with Randa Simmons, Joan Matthews, Sarah Uzzi and JoLou Parks assisting in the opening ritual, the prayer, Pledge to the Flag, American's Creed. Sonya Saul, Youth Chairman, sent her report that all applications for Good Citizen are now in and that seniors from 5 area high schools will be honored in Feb. Ernest Mae Seaholm reported that she is working on indexing Bible and marriage records for the National DAR archives. She is working on the second of about ten books. She is looking for Bible records and old marriage records if anyone would like to contribute theirs. Delegates for DAR State Conference were elected and they are:

Randa Simmons and her daughter Stephanie Rainosek, Nancy Wooten and her daughter Sarah. Stephanie and Sarah will be Conference Pages. Delegates for National Congress were elected and they are Randa Simmons and Stephanie Rainosek.

At the close of business Mrs. Carol Beth Gore, daughter of member Fair Wells, gave a book review on Nine And Counting, The Women Of The Senate. The book is about 9 lessons 9 women learned while serving in the Senate. She highlighted something about each of these women; Barbara McCulsky was the first Democratic woman to serve in both houses; Kay Bailey Hutchinson was a leading voice on foreign affairs and the State Treasurer in 1990; Diane Feinstein was elected in 1992, garnered the most votes in American history and was of Russian Orthodox heritage; Barbara Boxer was a stock broker and journalist, women's issues, the environment and economics were her passion; Patty Murray was the first woman to serve on the Senate Veterans Affairs and proved she wasn't

"just a mom in tennis shoes"; Olympia Snow, 1994, was of Greek descent, put herself through school after losing her parents and was a proponent of the school work program; Susan Collins of Maine was the daughter of two mayors and an advocate of campaign finance reform; Mary Landrau, daughter of Moon Landrau of LA, served 8 years as State Treasurer and Blanch Lincoln was the youngest woman elected to the US Senate and the youngest in Arkansas. We now have 14 women in the Senate.

Hostesses Joan Matthews, Grace Cooper and Ernest Mae Seaholm served refreshments. Guests present were Joy Thompson, Bobbie Guerra and Carol Beth Gore.

If you have a Revolutionary patriot, or would like to research one, and join the Daughters of the American Revolution, please contact a member mentioned in this article. The organization is open to any woman at least 18, who can document her ancestry back to someone who served or aided in the American Revolution.

# News from Pastor Ken

By Pastor Ken Jones

The Eagle Lake Ministerial Alliance is studying the idea of creating a job bank for career training opportunities, for some of our young people during the summer months when school is out. If your firm would be interested in having a summer intern, please let the Eagle Lake Ministerial Alliance know. This idea is only in the planning stage, until it is determined if funding can be obtained, and interest in the community is present.

This week this pastor got to sit in on the monthly meeting of the Colorado County Youth Facility board that meets to give public input to the facility located here in Eagle Lake. I was surprised to learn that it has not been a "boot camp", for over two years, and yet people all across Texas seem to think that it is, and most local citizens seem unaware of the progressive methods utilized to help young citizens become aware of their responsibilities to the community. The current 75 residents are in programs to help turn around young lives going in the wrong direction. Currently with state funding being very inadequate, the facility faces some harsh choices in terms of services, and staff, to remain competitive with other locations, that are underbidding the cost of services, in an effort to keep the doors open to receive ever-dwindling state funds. Across Texas, many of these institutions have closed in the past eighteen months, and the current outlook for the Eagle Lake facility depends on additional funding sources, and community support.

## DPS Encourages Safe Driving for the Holidays

The DPS is asking Texas drivers to exhibit a little Christmas spirit on our roadways over the holidays. "Remembering that Christmas is a time of peace, love, and joy, Texas motorists need to be respectful of other drivers," said Senior Trooper Gary Pflughaupt.

DPS Troopers and other law enforcement officers will be out in force for the Christmas and New Year's holidays, looking for speeders, drunk drivers and seat belt violators.

"Alcohol is always a concern during the holidays. Those individuals who think they must operate a motor vehicle after consuming alcohol, pose a tremendous risk, not only to themselves, but to innocent citizens as well," said Pflughaupt.

The DPS will be conducting two

special emphasis programs to ensure public safety: 1.) Operation Holiday and 2.) Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.

Operation Holiday allows the assignment of other departmental uniformed personnel from the Driver License Division to supplement Highway Patrol traffic enforcement. Operation Holiday will start on Friday, Dec. 24 at 12:01 a.m. and ends Sunday, Dec. 26 at midnight.

Drink. Drive. Go to Jail. is a special enforcement program geared towards combating drunk drivers. The Drink. Drive. Go to Jail. campaign begins Thursday, Dec. 23 at 12:01 a.m. and will conclude Sunday, Jan. 2, 2005 at midnight.

"Driving impaired is not keeping in the spirit of Christmas. Our message is clear, our message is simple-Drink. Drive. Go to Jail." stated Pflughaupt.

DPS reminds the public that the statewide stranded/disabled motorist helpline is 1-800-525-5555 in the event of vehicle breakdown. DPS can be used by participating cellular customers to reach the same number. In case of emergency, always call 9-1-1.

### SAFETY TIPS:

- Slow down - speed is the number one killer on Texas roads.
- Don't drink and drive; get a designated driver.
- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle.
- Keep cell phone chatter to a minimum.
- Drive with courtesy.
- Slow down in bad weather, construction zones and heavy traffic.

**Congratulations Anita Dancy-Jones** for passing the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board Exam.

From Your Family,  
Mama, Dad, Aunt  
Robbie, Melvin and  
the Children

## Winter commencement ceremonies held at Texas A&M Kingsville

It was the end of the college era, but the beginning of a new career and a bright future as 501 students received degrees from Texas A&M University-Kingsville during two winter commencement ceremonies held Friday, Dec. 10, in the Steinke Physical Education Center.

Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos was the keynote speaker at both ceremonies. He is currently in the public health and family medicine department at the Tufts University School of Medicine. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan nominated him as Secretary of Education, a post he held until he retired in 1990.

Among the graduates was Brandon Besch of Eagle Lake with a Bachelor of Science Administration degree; and Travis Huebner of Bellville with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Congratulations to all the graduates.

## City gets certificate of excellence

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to City of Eagle Lake by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to the individual(s), department or agency designated by the government as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR. This has been presented to William Pierce Arthur, Certified Public Accountant.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 15,000 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, Illinois, and Washington, D.C.

**THIS IS D.Q. COUNTRY SPECIAL**

**16 oz. Blizzard \$1.99**

Offer good from Dec. 20, 2004 through Jan. 2, 2005.

**New Hours:**  
Sunday thru Thursday 10 am-10 pm  
Friday & Saturday 10 am-11 pm

**979-234-3541**  
We Now Accept Visa & Mastercard

**EAGLE LAKE DAIRY QUEEN**  
100 Boothe Drive

Invitations for Quinceñeras, Weddings, Graduations. Discounts Available. Se Habla Español

**Occasions In Ink**  
(281) 344-1559

Always get a second opinion.

**Mark Boles Agency**  
If you're looking for auto, home, business or life insurance - call me or stop by our agency.

**Coy T. Sunderman**  
(Associate Agent)  
1856 FM 359  
Richmond, TX, 77469  
sunderc1@nationwide.com  
281 633 2094

**Nationwide Insurance & Financial Services**  
Life insurance underwritten by Nationwide Life Insurance Company, Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Affiliated Companies. Home Office: Columbus, OH 43215. Nationwide Lloyd's

**Round Up Some Cheer!**  
Just the Thing for the Hard-To-Buy-For or Last Minute...  
**Gift Certificates!**  
To Austin's BBQ

Purchase \$100 worth of Gift Certificates now through Dec. 31, 2004, and get **\$15-Worth FREE!**

You may buy the \$100 in any way you'd like... four \$25 certificates, ten \$10 certificates... whatever! But, they must all be purchased at the same time.

**Happy Holidays**  
**AUSTIN'S BBQ**  
507 E. Main • Eagle Lake • 979-234-5250