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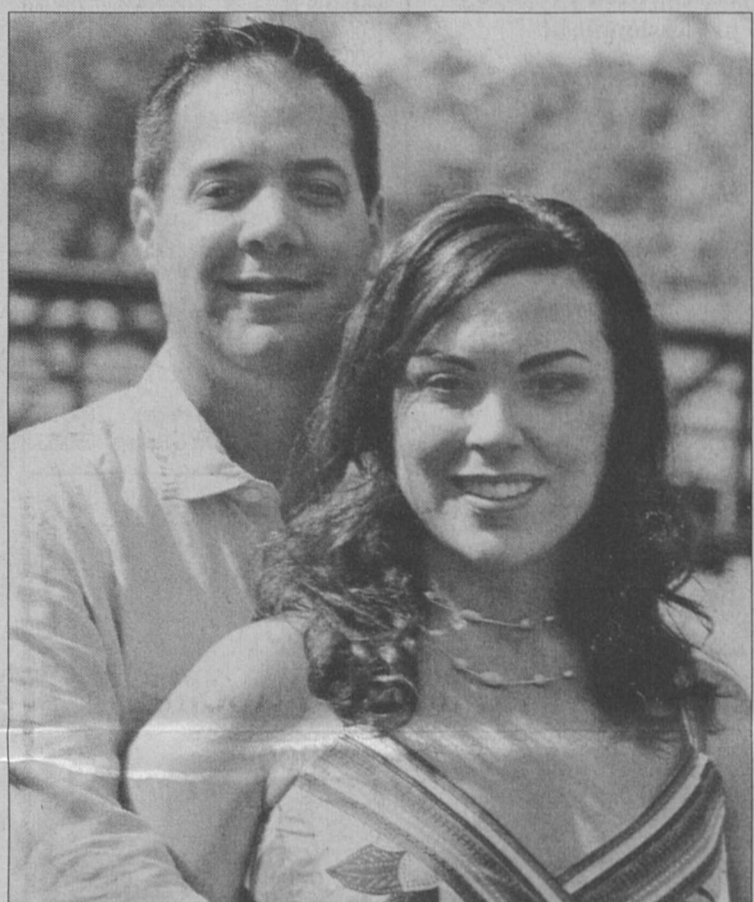
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Satsky, Gould To Wed

Edward and Judith Satsky of Eagle Lake are pleased to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Jill Renee, to Morris Spencer Gould, Jr., son of Morris and Gloria Gould of LaMarque.

Jill is a 1996 graduate of Rice High School. She went on to attend Texas A&M University in College Station, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology. Following her undergraduate work, Jill attended Baylor College of Medicine's Physician Assistant Program in Houston and earned a Master of Science degree with Physician Assistant certification in 2002. Jill works as a Physician Assistant in Interventional Radiology at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. She is also an adjunct faculty member for Baylor College of Medicine's PA Program.

Spencer is a 1993 graduate of LaMarque High School. He also attended Texas A&M University in College Station, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Science in 1998. Spencer attended the University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston's Physician Assistant Program and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physician Studies in 2001. In 2005, he completed his Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant studies through the University of Nebraska. Spencer works as a Physician Assistant in Radiation Oncology at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

The wedding is planned for September 2008 in Houston. The couple will reside in Pearland.



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas David Shaw

Kathy Jankowiak, daughter of Erline Austin Listowski of Eagle Lake, married Thomas David Shaw on Friday, June 27 at New Hope Church in Pearland, Texas.

Kathy was given away by her uncle, Kenneth Austin. He also served as Thomas's Best Man.

Chelsey Jankowiak was her mother's Maid of Honor.

Kathy retired from Friendswood High School this year after 31 years of teaching computer classes.

Thomas is a retired Harris County Deputy Sheriff.

They have moved to their new home in Canyon Lake area.

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County Commissioners

Continued from page 1

4.96 percent.

With the lower rate, commissioners were told the county will save about \$23,000 in interest payments.

They also approved seeing bids for the roof repair.

After considerable discussion, commissioners voted for proposed pay increases for most county employees of 5 percent for cost of living and an additional 2 percent merit increase.

Elected officials would also receive the increases, totaling 7 percent.

In addition, commissioners approved paying longevity pay to all elected officials and removing the maximum of 30 years for all employees.

County Auditor Raymie Kana estimated the cost to the budget for longevity pay for elected officials at \$18,540.

There was considerable discussion about raising the pay of two assistant county attorneys.

The two attorneys currently make \$48,480 from the county.

Commissioners agreed to give them a 5 percent pay increase and an additional \$5,000 a year.

That brings their pay from the county to \$55,904 annually.

Commissioners also heard an appeal from Peace Justice George Cason, who asked that justice of the peace clerks be paid the same as clerks in the county clerk's office.

However, commissioners voted to give those clerks the same percentage increase as the rest of the employees.

They also heard a request from Constable Lonnie Hinz that the constables receive a larger pay increase because of increased workload, but agreed that constables should receive the same increase proposed for other officials.

On a possible four-day work-week with 10-hour workdays, they also heard some reservation from Commissioner Tommy Hahn.

The commissioner said he had received a negative response from some members of the public about the idea.

He noted that the commissioners do not control the office hours that elected officials keep, but he said that he did not think the general public understood that.

"Of the offices in the courthouse, not everyone is on board," he said.

"I think we're putting a hardship on some employees," he said, referring to employees with children who need to make arrangements to take children to school and daycare.

He said he understood some departments will continue to work five days.

"I don't like the idea," he said.

He also said he felt the salary committee, where the idea originated, should have surveyed employees before moving forward with the idea.

County Attorney Ken Sparks said the original idea was for employees to start work at 7:30 a.m., take 30 minutes for lunch and work until 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

He noted government offices

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county will receive a \$25,000 renewal credit for the coming year.

—Approved providing \$2,500 in travel funds to the Colorado County Historical Commission to attend conferences or workshops.

David Kahlich, chairman of the commission, said the group had never previously asked for county funds, but said a number of other counties do provide financial support to their commissions.

He said he was told that Fayette County has budgeted \$6,000 to their commission.

—Approved a resolution of respect to Leonard Frank, county surveyor who died recently. County Clerk Darlene Hayek said he had two years left on his term of office, and the Democratic and Republican parties would have an opportunity to nominate replacements.

—Approved the appointment of Janice Pfeffer as the new county extension agent for family and consumer sciences. She replaces Sally Garrett, who moved earlier this year to Fayette County.

—Approved two permits for seismographic surveys on county owned property.

The company doing the surveys is Cougar Land Services. A representative of the company, P.D. Evans, told the commissioners the company will be surveying 81,000 acres, mainly in the eastern section of the county, east of Highway 71.

He said the work will last six months to a year and about a dozen workers will be involved. He said about 70 percent of the landowners had been contacted.

—Told Peace Justice Billy Hefner that they would like to see him use a court filing computer software package that the other three peace justices are using.

Hefner said he did not want to change software if the county was going to change to a new system in the near future.

He noted he was not up to date on filing to collect delinquent court fines and fees.

—Increased the pay scale for election judges and clerks from \$7 an hour to \$10 an hour and the pay for returning election boxes from \$15 to \$25. It was noted it had been a number of years since the pay had been increased.

—Agreed to continue the ban on outdoor burning currently in effect throughout the county.

—Approved a limited land division of 8.8 acres for Greg Gold in Precinct No. 3.

—Approved a proposal for actuarial consulting services for \$3,000 to comply with state law. Kana said the services, provided through the North Central Texas Council of Governments, will save the county several thousand dollars.

—Renewed the county health insurance program. Kana said there will be a 2.85 percent increase in rates. She also said the

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Court

Continued from page 2

assault causing bodily injury. Reduced to Class C, fined \$250, plus court costs.

Robert D. Vanscoy, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$350, plus court costs, and 25 hours community service.

Ben B. Barley, theft of stolen property. Reduced to Class C, fined \$100, plus court costs.

Marcus Wayne Calyen, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$250, plus court costs and 25 hours community service.

Lori Collins, theft of stolen property. Reduced to Class C, fined \$100, plus court costs.

Beverly B. Corbett, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$250, plus court costs.

Yvette Davidson, theft of stolen property. Sentenced to two years deferred adjudication, fined \$100, plus court costs, \$949.56 restitution.

Alicia Eaton, theft of stolen property. Reduced to Class C, fined \$100, plus court costs.

Isley D. Edwards, interference with public duties. Sentenced to 10 days in jail, fined \$350, plus court costs.

Nicholas D. Johnson, theft of stolen property. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$100, plus court costs, \$309.44 restitution.

Jimmy Kieborz, III, assault causing bodily injury to a family member. Sentenced to 60 days in jail - work release.

Jessie Cavazos, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 14 days in jail, credit for two served.

Kari D. Smolik, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to five days in jail, credit for one served, fined \$1,500, plus court costs, and 90 days driver's license suspension.

Hugh Glynn Williams, driving while intoxicated-2nd offense. Sentenced to 60 days in jail, credit for three served.

Randall E. Yauch, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to two years probation, fined \$1,000, plus court costs, 10 days in jail as condition of probation, interlock device.



“The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land...”

—Abraham Lincoln

Briskly, without much thought or emotion, I was putting away, perhaps even carelessly, some of the patriotic decorations that I had displayed in my home since Memorial Day.

I'm a holiday-loving person. There are bunnies and pastels all around my house during Easter.

Autumn-colored leaves fly about plentifully during the fall months surrounding Thanksgiving. And there's probably an overabundance of Christmas, both religious and secular, in December.

So, beginning Memorial Day, through Flag Day on June 14th and into July and Independence Day, my tables and countertops, doors and a window or two, become a sea of red, white and blue.

Now the packing box I had pulled from the closet was fast becoming a bright display of those patriotic colors as I tucked away these items till Memorial Day '09. July 5th, holiday over.

But then I got a grim reminder that it's not quite so easy to "pack away" the thoughts and emotions relevant to these special days. The television news commentator across the room was informing viewers that another Houston area serviceman had died serving our country. A Marine had been killed in Afghanistan. I stopped packing, red candle in hand, silver and blue stars from a decorative wrap clinging to my skin.

I remembered just reflecting on this last week. In writing my column, I look ahead during the first few days of each month to refresh my mind of approaching holidays or annual civic events, something in particular I would want to recognize IN ADVANCE of the event. But due to life in general and other items in particular on my mind, I neglected writing July 4th in advance and, like any holiday or day of recognition, dismissed writing of it in past tense.

Yet, I couldn't dismiss it now with this soldier's sacrifice - very present and very real - on my

mind.

Each year July 4th is a celebration of our independence and a day of recognizing the price paid for that freedom. We Americans had all seen some fireworks and heard some patriotic tunes and perhaps even attended a memorial service or event. We certainly had eaten our hotdogs or barbecue and enjoyed a picnic or some part of the great American outdoors. In tired resignation at the end of the day, we probably casually dismissed the passing holiday.

Locally the July 3rd 10th Annual Fireworks display was an exhilarating 30-minute program of light and music. I was also fortunate to attend Houston's Miller Outdoor Theatre on the evening of July 4th to hear the Houston Symphony play patriotic melodies. This included an arrangement of songs from each branch of the armed forces. Those present who had served or were currently serving in a particular branch were asked to stand as their hymn was played. There was a great show of appreciation and widespread applause for those who stood.

A recent excellent patriotic article by syndicated columnist George F. Will mentioned Arlington National Cemetery "where it is always Memorial Day."

Perhaps in turn it should always be July 4th or a day of patriotic pride or remembrance, especially while our troops are engaged in active duty defending our freedoms.

Today it is Monday, July 7th, as I write this article.

Today that Houston area Marine is being buried.

Today I called the Gertson family and felt drawn to stand in humble reflection at the gravesite of Clint Gertson, where a large American flag fluttered in the passing breeze. The Eagle Lake community does not forget his sacrifice in Iraq in 2005.

Today I decided to leave the little American flag in my car that I had planned to place at my father's grave. I had not yet been able to make the out of town trip to the cemetery where he is buried with recognition of having served in the Navy during World War II. I now feel it just as important for

Continued on next page