

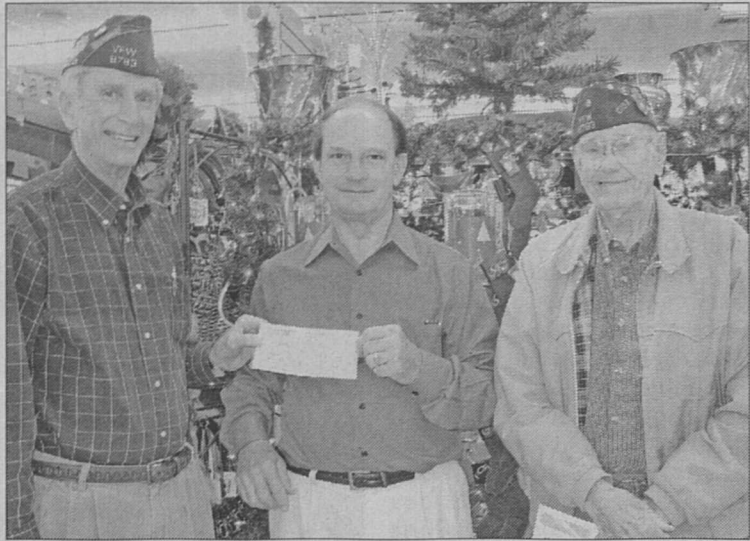
New Arrivals

Yanaris Isabel Aguado Torres
Carla Maria Torres y Juilo Cesar Aguado Gutierrez anuncian el nacimiento de su nina, Yanaris Isabel Aguado Torres.
Nacio el 5 de diciembre a las 7:24 a.m. en Rice Medical Center en Eagle Lake.
Yanaris Isabel peso siete libras, nueve onzas, 21 pulgadas en tamano.
Abuelos maternos Jaime Torres y Maria Martinez de Celago, Guanajuato.
Abuelos paternos Sergio Aguado y Maria Isabel Gutierrez de Querendaro Michoacan.

Protect Your Pet From Theft

America's fascination with canines knows no bounds.
Just look at the late notorious hotel operator Leona Helmsley's multi-million dollar trust fund she left for "Trouble," her beloved Maltese.
The inheritance notwithstanding, pet theft has become an increasing problem that only now has begun to be addressed.
By following some important tips and being aware of red flags, you can keep your pet better protected from dognappers.
"It's not just about the financial value of the dog for any of these people.
It's an emotional attachment that can't be replaced by getting another dog," says Lisa Peterson, a spokesperson for the American Kennel Club (AKC), who started seeing enough concern over pet theft to begin tracking the problem.
"Some owners, desperate to find their beloved pets, have contacted us, wanting to know what they can do to help get their 'family' members back."
Indeed, pet theft is growing at a hearty rate, with the AKC having begun tracking and reporting such incidents over the past two years.
And concern over the theft of dogs has inspired legislators to act by proposing new laws against such thefts and AKC to spread helpful advice for pet owners.
The most obvious step in addressing the issue of pet theft is prevention.
By paying extra attention to your pet, the prospect of theft goes down.
Simple things, like not letting your dog off its leash and not leaving it unattended in your yard or car can help avoid potentially dangerous scenarios.
Tying up your dog and leaving it unattended on the sidewalk can be particularly problematic, especially with small dogs.
In the unfortunate event that your pet is taken, there are a few methods of recovery.
By getting your dog a Spot-Light collar with a GPS tracking device or by embedding a permanent microchip in your dog, retrieving and identifying a stolen pet can be made easier.
There are other services available to help recover stolen pets. Sites like helpmefindmypet.com work in conjunction with the American Kennel Club Companion Animal Recovery and send e-mail alerts regarding missing pets to every shelter, vet, and animal-control agency within a 50-mile radius.
Even if your pet isn't worth millions, the sentimental value of a loyal animal can be incalculable.
But unfortunately there is a market out there for stolen animals.
Keeping that in mind, some short-term precautions can contribute greatly to a long-term relationship with a pet.

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VFW Post 8783 Receives Donation
The Eagle Lake Rice Dryer, Inc. made a donation of \$500 to the Rice Area Memorial VFW Post 8783 last week. Pictured from left to right Commander Len Matula, receiving the check from Steve Balas, treasurer of the Eagle Lake Rice Dryer, Inc. and Earl Rodgers, Quartermaster. The VFW sponsors many local projects in the community and offers scholarships to area students.

GAR Reports On Activities At Meeting Held On Dec. 1

The Garwood Association for Restoration met December 1, at 6 p.m., at the Fire Station meeting room with the following in attendance: Helen Noteboom, Justina and Chris Leopold, Ruby Hoffmann, Larry and Diane Smidovec, Susan and John Stacy, Tammy Till, Melissa and David Hernandez, Karen Center, Anita Meisner, Vestal and Becky Odom, Ruth Abell, Sheryl and Tim Carnes and Catherine Berger.
President Anita Meisner called the meeting to order.
The minutes of the last meeting were read by Secretary Catherine Berger and approved as read.
Treasurer Vestal Odom gave the treasurer's report.
Committee Reports:
House and Yard Lighting: Helen and Catherine will meet with the judges, Connie Lange and Joyce Stancik, on December 1 and escort them to the locations to be judged.
Parade: Tina reported they have received approx. 15 entries for the parade.
Banners: Ruth Ann has put up the banners at the north and south ends of Garwood.
The beauty contest has been cancelled due to no entries.
Booths: Diane reported about 20 booths have been reserved.
Other: Karen will get the flags from the Lions Hall to be placed at the staging area. Tim has agreed to sing the National Anthem.
Melissa showed the certificates she has made for the parade winners and also the yard signs David has made for the yard contest winners.
New Business:
Tammy has sent flyers to the local schools to be distributed to the children.
The Library will be open from 3 to 5 p.m. and will be serving wassail.
Larry will have four port-potties delivered Friday.
There being no further business, Vestal and Tammy made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Teaching Kids To Use The Internet And Social Networks Safely

Teaching kids to use the Internet properly at an early age will help them perform better at school and later in life when they enter the workforce.
It's all about training them to use such tools as search engines, social networking sites, e-mail and blogs more effectively, while staying safe in the process.
There are several things to teach kids to give them a solid foundation when using the Internet:
*** Basic Safety:** Always monitor children's computer usage.
Be aware of sites they visit and the amount of time spent there.
Consider using software programs that restrict access to violent, pornographic and other inappropriate Web sites.
*** Safe Surfing, E-mailing and Chatting:** Just as you wouldn't let your children hang out in inappropriate places until late at night, so should you teach kids only to visit safe Web sites of which you approve.
The same goes for e-mail and chat rooms.
When teaching kids not to talk to strangers, extend this idea to e-mail and online chatting.
Make sure they understand people aren't always who they claim to be online and never to meet anybody in person who they first met online.
*** Posting and Tweeting Carefully:** Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites can be great ways for kids to socialize with friends online, but they first need to be taught basic rules.
Instruct them not to share personal information since what they post or tweet about becomes public information.
*** Searching Smarter:** Kids should learn to use a search engine, as it will help in everything from researching schoolwork to finding a job.
Train them to make smarter use of their time to find what they need faster.
Take them to search engines like Google, Bing, Yahoo! and Ask to see how they work.
Then show them they don't need to choose one over the other and they can find results from all of them at once by using a metasearch site such as InfoSpace.com — which delivers results from all the leading search engines.
It also delivers real-time search results from Twitter, so they can learn what people are saying about topics they're researching.
Users can choose to filter search results or block Twitter results from appearing in searches on InfoSpace.com if they have

concerns about content.
*** Getting Trusted Results:** Just because you've taught your child to properly use the Web, doesn't mean all that information is trustworthy.
When kids begin doing research for school assignments, teach them to evaluate the credibility of sites.
Coach them to check each site's source and question it: Did a trusted organization or company publish it?
Is the author or blogger really a reputable expert?
"Mastering the Internet and using social networking sites safely are skills that will help kids throughout their school years and careers," emphasizes Rodkin.
"It doesn't have to be a challenging and dangerous place if you teach them to follow the rules."

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Spice Up Your Holiday Party

It sometimes seems like you've attended or hosted the same holiday party 100 times.
You've eaten the same mundane food, heard the same holiday tunes and been surrounded by identical decorations, year-in and year-out.
This year, spice up your holiday party — literally! Add some hot peppers to both food and drink, alike.
Heat up your dance floor with twists on old favorites. And wow your guests with dramatic decorations.
Heat Up The Fare
Liven up those holiday casseroles by adding hot peppers and you'll be sure to wake up your guests.
Serving stuffing? Try some Creole cornbread stuffing, which brings cayenne and other spices to the table.
Nothing says Christmas like green and red. So why not jazz up your victuals with Southwestern flair by serving spicy guacamole?
Grab some avocados, tomatoes, limes, salt and the spiciest jalapenos you can find. Put this out for Santa and he'll rocket back up the chimney!
Ditch Eggnog For Spicy Cocktails
Hot apple cider? Boring eggnog? Instead, wow your guests with spicy twists on seasonal cocktails.
Whip up a Mexican Hot Chocolate with chili powder.
Mix some spiced rum and chipotle powder into store-bought eggnog and you've got a "Sucker Punch" Eggnog.
"Fiery flavors get the adrenalin pumping, whether it's a drop of Tabasco in a Margarita — the afterglow of a feel-good run in the park — or a fiery habanero sizzle, which is more like an extreme daredevil sky-diving adventure," says Kara Newman, author of the new cocktail cookbook, "Spice & Ice: 60 Tongue-Tingling Cocktails."
Hot and spicy cocktails can run the gamut from piquant to downright incendiary.
Infuse your party's cocktails with chile peppers, hot sauces or wasabi, to provide a lift to sweet, herbal, bitter and savory drinks.
For recipes, visit <http://karanewman.wordpress.com> or read the book "Spice & Ice."
Toss Traditional
Deck the halls differently. Ditch traditional decorations for something different.
Go sophisticated and dramatic by decorating in black and white or silver and white.
Try a Southwestern theme to go with spicier fare? Instead of warm and rosy hues, opt for dramatic lighting. Just don't lose the mistletoe!

Mix Music
A live band can kick things up. So, too, can karaoke, but beware of those who hog the mike.
Or create a play list on your MP3 player featuring unusual versions of favorite holiday tunes.
Mix rock with space-age retro lounge, traditional and punk. Remember, it worked for Bing Crosby and David Bowie when they joined forces for a rendition of "The Little Drummer Boy."

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