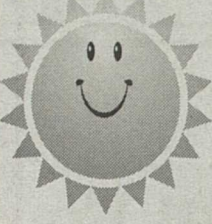
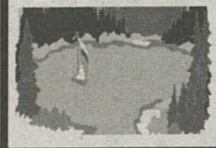


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 **A Brighter Day Child Care CTR** is pleased to announce the addition of 2 newly renovated rooms expanding our infant capacity to 16.
Infant Rooms will be available on April 19th.
A Brighter Day enrolls children ages birth to 13 years old. All age group classes participate in year round programs.
The pre-school group ages 3-5 years old has a comprehensive lesson plan preparing them for Pre-K and kindergarten including computer lessons.
We also have an after school program which implements helping students with their homework and computer lessons. Come by and take a tour.
We are now accepting applications for infants. Availability is limited, so get on the waiting list.
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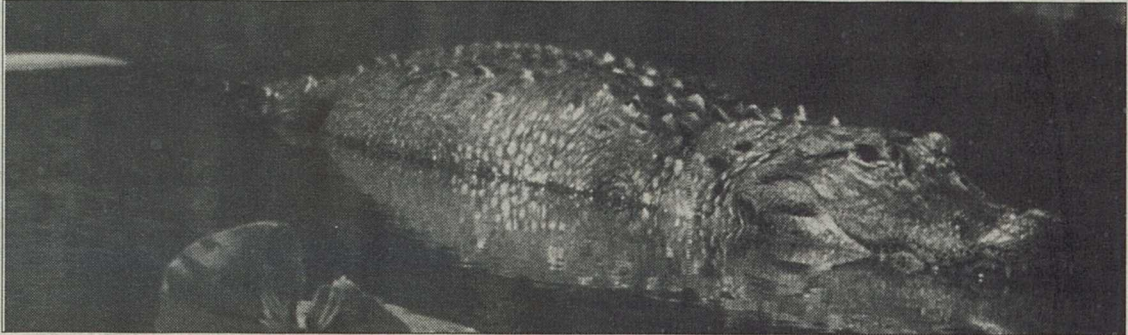
Views Around The Lake
by Cindy Klopsteck

"Spring was never waiting for us, girl. It ran one step ahead, as we followed in the dance..."
---lyrics from "MacArthur Park"
The melody and questionable lyrics were dancing in my head as I hiked briskly - dare I say "danced" ? - down the Spring-laden trail toward THE lake in Eagle Lake.
Though introduced to and invited down this path by Becky Almanza some time ago, I was finally taking the trek - alone - to the only officially-known public access to the lake, via the Eagle Lake Municipal Park on Hwy 90.
When discussing the city's namesake one day, Becky was the one who informed me about this particular pathway leading to it. We had planned to take the hike together with a couple of baseball bats and some noisy kids.
The infamous and unofficial Eagle Lake mascot, the alligator, is known to enjoy some sunny spots along the trail as much as visiting humans do, so we always thought we'd come prepared - not that I would endanger any sun-loving children: they just have a way of being loud so as to scare off possible lurking predators.
Today, however, was a week-day lunch hour. I knew my informant Becky was working, so I was walking alone with no baseball bat - only a camera in one hand and a cell phone in my pocket. I still felt safe. It's a lovely area, and the Eagle Lake citizens are fortunate to have such a place in their city.

The day before I had seen what looked to be three co-workers lunching on sandwiches at a picnic table near the park's gazebo. It was always the gazebo that had drawn my attention to this area, but today was one of the first warmer and dryer Spring days, so the trail beckoned me. A well-placed sign at the start of the hike warns, among other things:
"Do not feed any wildlife" (I wouldn't want to.)
"Do not tease alligators" (I wouldn't dare to.)
"Stay on trail" (You better believe it.)
The Eagle Lake Municipal Park, established in 2000, is complete with the gazebo, several park benches, picnic tables, restroom facilities and a playground. The city swimming pool is located just beside it. The lone trail leading to Eagle Lake has some observation bench spots and runs along Wintermann Creek, where I spotted a number of large turtles sunning themselves on thick semi-submerged logs.
The trail eventually winds to a pair of lovely wooden bridges. Crossing them you come to the end of the trail, right along one edge of the lake. Two long observation benches there were donated by Eagle Lake Rice Dryer, Inc. in memory of Jimmie

Thomas, a well-known local citizen who was also an avid hunter and conservationist.
The water seemed a bit low on this end of the lake, the day I was there, but lily pads were thick around lush growth in the water. Nearby sloping green lawn displayed Indian Red Blankets in full bloom. The sun peeked through the leafy patterns overhead, all creating a wonderful, peaceful Spring setting.
But I wasn't alone.
It was just as I was forcing myself to return to civilization that I saw the alligator snoozing next to a large turtle on one of the old logs near the bridge crossing. I certainly did not want to disturb the near 3-1/2 foot alligator and his fellow reptilian friend, but attempted to take a picture.
When I discovered dead batteries in my camera and remembered I had no baseball bat, I decided to leave them in peace and me in one piece.
Later that day I spoke with Dennis Pavlicek, Superintendent of Public Works for the City of Eagle Lake, and commended him for what I had seen to be a very neat area.
His crew cleans and checks the restrooms on a daily basis, and at least three times a week they pick up litter and empty trash

cans. Grass cutting and weedeating detail is weekly.
He told me stories of an alligator who would try jumping on the slope mower deck when they would cut the grass along the creek. I was glad I heard this story after my walk.
The park sign I had read earlier that day had also requested: "Please Pick Up Trash". Some trash from visitors had blown from the grass and trail into the creek, which is pretty difficult for the city crew to clean up.
Let's hope Eagle Lake citizens and visitors continue to enjoy this park with its trail and scenery, but are observant of the signs.
Driving by the park one last time that afternoon, I spied a lady sitting near her car, apparently stopped to enjoy a late outdoor snack. A young couple was leading their daughter on a walk down the trail. The sun was still warm and the green of Spring was evident everywhere.
The little girl was certainly enjoying it all - head up, smiling, as she held hands with her parents and skipped down the trail...or... maybe she was dancing.
"Let us dance in the sun, wearing wildflowers in our hair."
-Susan P. Shutz
Comments are welcome at cindyj_k@hotmail.com



Comptroller Gives April 15 Tax Rendition Reminder

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs today reminded Texas businesses to render their property with county appraisal districts by April 15.
To render means to list the taxable inventory, furniture and fixtures, machinery and equipment and other property a business owned or managed as of Jan. 1.
Appraisal districts may use the information to set property values.
"Rendition helps county appraisal districts appraise business property fairly and accurately," Combs said.
"If some businesses are not paying their fair share of property tax, it places a greater tax burden on other business owners and homeowners."
Rendition allows property owners to record their opinion of their property's value and ensures that the appraisal district sends them a notice before changing a value on their property.
Rendition is not required for exempt property, such as church property or a farmer's equipment used for farming.
If more than one appraisal district appraises a property, the property owner should render in each appraisal district office.
Failure to render property carries a penalty of ten percent of the taxes due.
Property owners who need more time to file their renditions may file a written request with

the chief appraiser on or before April 15 to receive an automatic extension to May 15.
Combs also reminded owners whose property was damaged by a storm, flood or fire last year that they may file a special decreased value report that could lower their tax bill.
Property owners have until April 15 to file the decreased value report, which indicates their property's condition on Jan. 1.
For more information about

rendering property, deadline extensions, penalties and rendition forms, taxpayers may contact their county appraisal district office, e-mail the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at ptd.cpa@cpa.state.tx.us or call the property tax hotline at (800) 252-9121.
The Comptroller's forms are available online at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxinfo/taxforms/02-forms.html.

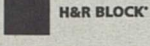
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*The IRS payment date will be equal to the date the transaction is authorized and completed. It may take the IRS 5-7 days to post the payment to your tax account.

Creative Homemaking Fair Judge Workshop April 16

A creative homemaking fair judging workshop will be held on April 16 in Columbus at the Colorado County Services Facility at 305 Radio Lane.
Please feel free to share this opportunity with others that might be interested in attending.

The workshop is open to all creative homemaking fair judges and chairman in Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Washington, and Wharton Counties.
Please call the office at (979) 732-2530 to register by April 9.

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