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THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY OF MAGNOLIA

MAGNOLIA EDITION

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APRIL 23, 2014

VOL. 38, NO. 17

BADGE OF HONOR

Magnolia West senior earns every merit badge offered by the Boy Scouts

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It was a great accomplishment for George Lang III, a Magnolia West High School senior, when he earned his Eagle Scout rank at just 15 years old but earning every merit badge offered by the Boy Scouts is a rare achievement.

Lang is a member of Tomball Troop 471 and joined Boy Scouts at 12 years old. On April 7 he earned his bugling badge, the last remaining merit badge offered and is one of the most challenging to obtain.

This includes 134 merit badges currently offered and four which were offered only dur-

MERIT

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ing Boy Scout's centennial year, for a total of 138. It took a lot of time and dedication, Lang said, but it was worth it.

"We would go to merit badge universities," Land said. "They called them and it basically was like a school day but instead of school it was merit badges and those are usually on Saturdays ... so a lot of my weekends would just be merit badges."

Lang's parents, George and Cecilia, are proud of their son and his accomplishments. Cecilia said her son earning his Eagle Scout rank was good enough for her but Lang strived for more.

"As his parents we are so proud of his major accomplishment," Cecilia said. "Some boys strive to be an Eagle Scout but very few strive to earn every merit badge. We were skeptical at first because when a 12-year old boy says he wants to receive every merit badge, that is a pretty high goal."

More than 5 percent of Boy Scouts, according to Cecilia, have earned the rank of Eagle Scout and less than 1 percent received all merit badges. She said it was a challenge for Lang to receive every badge because Boy Scouts have been recently adding more merit badges at the rate of about four per year.

"Every time we thought he was close to getting all the badges, we found out there

was another badge to be earned, it was not an easy process," she said. "It consumed our family but every family gets involved in something, sometimes it is sports such as football, we just chose to get involved with Boy Scouts instead."

Since joining Boy Scouts, Lang has had some amazing experiences. His favorite merit badges are Scuba diving and Shotgun Shooting. He is now a certified scuba diver and while earning his aviation badge he got a chance to fly a plane.

After high school Lang plans to attend college in the fall at Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi and will complete Scouting's "triple crown" this summer. Lang said this is the last summer

camp with the Boy Scouts.

"There are three of these and this will be my third one. You have to go to all three to earn the triple crown," said Lang.

It is a little bittersweet, Lang said, since this summer will be his last camp with the Boy Scouts. He said the triple crown is another accomplishment and he has learned so much in earning his merit badges.

"I am grateful for all the opportunities that earning merit badges has offered me," he said.



Submitted photo

George Lang III, a senior at Magnolia West High School, recently earned every merit badge offered by the Boy Scouts. On Monday, April 7, he earned his last remaining merit badge, Bugling.