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The VFW post here once again is funding the summer youth basketball program managed by primary school principal Major Benge, and middle school coach Elizabeth Miller. Last Thursday VFW post commander Melvin Stanick presented the Rice School District with an \$800 contribution for this year's expenses. The donation is less this year, since the group's \$1,200 contribution last year included equipment available this year. Benge said the program, at the primary school gym, runs for 20 days, opening May 27. June 27 is the last day. The gym will be open each day from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and while there is no charge for participants they must be enrolled in the Rice School District.

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Sports Rice athletes honored Monday

You can't talk about sports these days without talking about the Texas "No Pass, No Play" rule, and Monday night's all-sports athletic banquet at Rice High School was no exception.

Athletes and fans who attended the event also saw Vicki Kutser, Malcom Thomas and Pecos Coble receive the "Athlete of the Year" award for the 1984-85 season that saw a lot of changes in the coaching staff, as well as several teams that brought home championship trophies. Four special achievement awards also were presented on behalf of the state University Interscholastic League that governs local school athletics and other events.

"I contributed to a lot of winners," said the evening's speaker Cheena Gilstrap, retired coach at University of Texas, Arlington. "But unfortunately, too many of them were on the opposite side of the field." His talk added humor to the evening; it is easier to be humorous when you are talking to champions like you are, he said. "There isn't much you can do to cheer up those 28 teams."

"We just want to thank you for letting us feel the pride that comes with being winners," was a comment added by Laura Appelt after she called on the varsity football team to stand. The varsity football players earned bi-district championship honors, the JV football team were district champs, the girls varsity team was the basketball district champs and the freshman boys were basketball district champs.

After certificates of recognition for athletic achievement in the various sports were announced by Rachelle Hunt, and awards



Speaker Cheena Gilstrap

were handed out by Carol Rhodes, Janice Hyek and athletic director and head football coach Clifton Darden, the athlete of the year awards were made.

"The athlete of year must be all season in two sports," Darden said, as well as quality in many other areas. Vicki Kutser, the winner for the Girl athlete of the year, drew a large round of applause. For the boys, Darden said there were two winners this year. "Since the coaches vote, and it isn't my policy to ask for a recount or another vote, both Coble and Thomas were named," he said. There names will be added to the permanent trophies in the school's display case. This year's three honorees take their historical place among the other names of the top athletes at the school.

Jon Harborth, Bertie Garcia, John Adkins and Becky Kutser were the recipients of the special UIL certificates. Darden said those were presented to athletes who showed exemplary

performance in academics, as well as the extra-curricular activity. To qualify, the students have to be in the top ten percent of their graduating class. They are examples of model students that others can follow, he said.

As for comments on the academic standing rules, both Darden and Gilstrap let their opinions be known.

Darden, known for speaking up at the annual sports banquet, said "Last year I mentioned that Texas sports may never be the same when governor Mark White and Ross Perot got in the things they wanted in some of you are starting to see now that may be true. I would like to tell these young people and athletes, that you have been challenged; I hope we have the young people around here that will meet that challenge...you know there are certain things you must accomplish in any UIL event. We have a fight on our hands. We're not trying to change any laws...we want to meet the challenges set for the Rice District, (we want to) expand our education and (we want to) do what it takes."

"Let's not slip away and hide, and we will come out champions," he said.

Kristine Carpenter introduced Gilstrap, who retired in 1978 and now is a banquet speaker and rancher. "The penalty right now simply is unreasonably high," Gilstrap said of the no pass, no play rule. He recited a story about two players who joined one of his junior college teams. The only reason they went to junior college, he said, was that in their first semester at a major college, they flunked every course, and the junior college level was their last chance.

Because of sports, and the

dedication of coaches to an educational system, one of those players now is an MD, and the other is an engineer. "It wasn't a matter of intelligence, but a matter of interest," he said. If athletics has any virtue at all it is simply that some people have a marginal interest in education, and if athletics can do one thing — and it has many times — it can keep these young men and women in an atmosphere of education long enough so they can begin to see the light," as did the two players mentioned. "Certainly education should be first in school...any athlete that plays out his eligibility without getting an education, is the big loser," Gilstrap said.

On the more entertaining side, Gilstrap said he was in the business for 30 years, and coached in many different schools. "Moving so many times was by choice," he said, "but it wasn't always my choice." In another story, he said that as a coach he might not have always faced the music when in a tough situation. Once a quarterback called time out, and trotted over to the sideline when he wanted to consult the coach about a third down and long situation. Gilstrap said he asked what play he should call. Gilstrap told him that since he was only on a one-year contract, yet the player was on a 4-year scholarship, the player should make the call.

Just after the barbecue meal, Darden thanked the participants, and community for their support of Rice athletics. He also introduced the coaching staff: Steve Carroll, Gilbert Goode, Dusty Lowp, Mike Tankersly, Jane Dostal and Bill Cain at the high school; he also recognized the coaches at Garwood, Sheridan and the Eagle Lake Middle School.



Special UIL athletic awards were presented to Jon Harborth, Bertie Garcia, Becky Kutser and John Adkins.

History of 'Ice House' continues with fitness center opening this Saturday

This Saturday the course of history of Eagle Lake's ice house takes another turn as grand opening ceremonies are scheduled for the Eagle Lake Fitness Center and the Eagle Lake Hair Center.

Featuring an array of fitness center equipment, the Fitness Center is giving new life to the once crumbling building. Long ago, estimated at around the turn of the century, Eagle Lake's ice house opened almost across the tracks from the train depot. In those days, ice was a treat indeed, when residents had the money to purchase it. The original opening of the building is recalled as an event comparable to the coming of the Rural Electrification Corp. that brought electricity to rural areas.

The ice house was a fun place in most communities too. While little history is readily available on the Eagle Lake structure, a shame in itself, many people remember the good old days and the good times connected with the place. Anna Margaret White, now 87 and a life-long resident of Eagle Lake, recalls that in

about 1915 she used to ride a horse to the old ice house and eat watermelon. There are many long-time residents. "The old building now is being renovated by Melissa McGee-Angus and her sister, Kathleen Minnier. Their work, and Dr. Rose Roquemore's rebuilding and restoration of the train depot, are adding a positive look to the downtown area."

Melissa's business, formerly the Hair Depot when it was in Dr. Roquemore's building, now is called the Hair Center. Kathleen's business, the Fitness Center, is something new for the city. The center features

eucalyptus rooms, aerobic bicycles, weight rooms, lockers, showers, sauna, aerobic classes, lectures, tanning bed and other services. Kathleen is a national bodybuilder and was second place in the USA lightweight California Gold Cup in 1982.

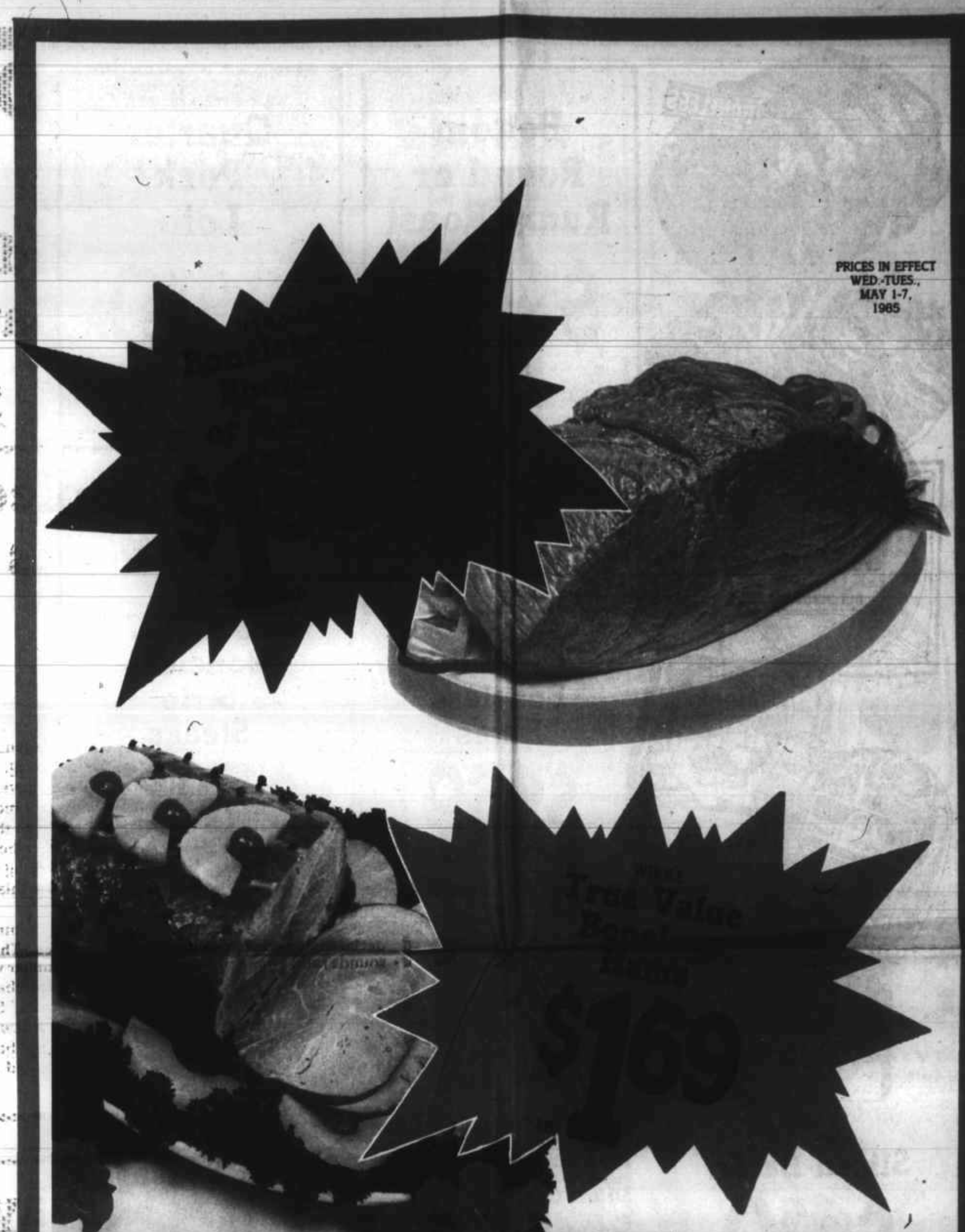
She said racquetball club plans are in the works and she hopes to see a children's gymnastic program developed. "We are aware that everyone is not an aspiring body builder, but," according to her, everyone should be aware that resistant weight training is the most effective way to control weight and acquire tone."

The new owners of the ice house said they hope the public will come out for Saturday's open house. "We feel Eagle Lake is growing, and the more we put into the community, not necessarily financially, the more we will get out of it. I have faith in this town and it's my home," Melissa said.

Weekly fun golf tournament starts

The mixed nine-hole fun golf tournament, sponsored by the Eagle Lake Ladies Golf Association will begin this week on Wednesday, May 1. This tournament will be held every Wednesday with tee-off time starting at 6 p.m. The association would like for

everyone to be signed up by 5:30 p.m. If you can't get there by 5:30 and want to play, you can call out to the many people who remember the good old days and the good times connected with the place. Anna Margaret White, now 87 and a life-long resident of Eagle Lake, recalls that in



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