

GATE program set for May 15

The public is encouraged to attend the community-wide Gang Awareness Through Education (GATE) program being sponsored by the Eagle Lake Police Department and Eagle Lake Crime Stoppers Thursday, May 15, at 7 p.m. in the Eagle Lake Primary School. The program will be presented by the Aldine Independent School District Police Department and pre-

sented in English and Spanish.

It is open to all citizens. Parents of school aged children, school staff, church representatives and anyone who works with the youth are especially encouraged to attend.

The program's objective is to educate Eagle Lake, (See GATE, Page 10)

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NEWSBRIEFS

Garwood Community Assoc. BBQ is Sunday

The Garwood Community Association is sponsoring a fundraiser barbecue beef and all the trimmings dinner, prepared by Austin's BBQ & Catering, this Sunday, April 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Association Building. Tickets may be purchased in advance from any member for \$5 each; to-go plates only.

St. Mary's registration set for April 21

St. Mary's School in Nada will hold registration for first grade students Monday, April 21, from 8 to 10 a.m. in the school library. Parents need to bring birth and baptismal certificates, immunization record and social security card.

Ron Paul to hold town meeting

Representative Ron Paul will hold a Town Hall meeting Monday, April 21, at 9 a.m. at Columbia Gulf Coast Medical Center cafeteria in Wharton, 1400 Hwy. 59 Bypass. Refreshments will be served. Come and talk to your congressman. Get to know him and find out what is happening in Washington. For more information, call 409-532-2500.

Columbus swim team schedules registration

Registration for the 1997 Columbus Swim Team will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at the Columbus City Pool. Registration fee is \$35 per child plus cost for replacement suit if needed. Practices, in the evening, start in May. For more information, call Becky Moulder at 234-3386.

Garwood pre-k, kindergarten registration set

The Garwood Elementary School will have pre-k and kindergarten pre-registration for the 1997-98 school year on Tuesday, April 22, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Kindergarten students must be five years old before Sept. 1, 1997. To qualify for pre-k, students must be four years old by Sept. 1 and qualify for free/reduced lunches. All students must bring their birth certificates, health/shot record and social security card. If your child is in pre-k for the current year, it is not necessary to enroll them again. If you are unable to be at the school on April 22, please call 758-3385 to make other arrangements.

3rd annual softball tournament is April 26, 27

The Third Annual Invitational Softball Tournament, 9th Series, will be held April 26 and 27 in El Campo at the El Campo Sports Duplex. For more information, contact the tournament director at 409-244-1172 anytime. Entry fee is \$125 for men and \$110 for co-ed; A.S.A. rules will apply. The deadline to enter is 10 a.m. April 24.

Jr. High Band to hold garage sale Saturday

The Eagle Lake Middle School (ELMS) Jr. High Raider Band will hold a garage sale on Saturday, April 19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the school parking lot. All proceeds will benefit the ELMS band.

Singles dance this Friday

The Fort Bend Singles will sponsor a public dance on Friday, April 18, at 8 p.m. at the Needville KC Hall. Music will be provided by the Henry Tannenberger Orchestra, door prizes will be given. Admission is \$5 per person. For more information, call 409-793-6557 or 793-4573.

DU dinner set for May 1

The Baytown Chapter of Ducks Unlimited is holding their 22nd annual dinner banquet, Thursday, May 1, at the Baytown Fairgrounds, just north of I-10 East on N. Main St. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets include dinner and a one-year membership to Ducks Unlimited; singles \$40; couple \$50; Greenwings (16 years and under) \$20. For more information, call 281-328-7447 or 281-332-2047. Proceeds benefit the conservation and development of habitat for our diminishing wetlands. Ducks Unlimited is the largest non-profit wetland conservation organization in North America.

Scruggs in concert at ELPS April 23

Joe Scruggs will be in concert at the Eagle Lake Primary School (ELPS) Wednesday, April 23, beginning at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Admission is \$1 for school-age children; \$2 for adults; and children three years and under get in free. Scruggs has been performing for children and families across the U.S. since 1984 and has been in Eagle Lake three times to delight the youngsters. The public is invited to attend.

Sheridan pre-k, kindergarten registration set

Sheridan Elementary will be enrolling pre-k and kindergarten students on Friday, April 25, in the morning. Pre-k students must be economically or educationally deprived and four years old before Sept. 1 to qualify. Please bring birth certificate, shot records and social security card, plus proof of income. Kindergarten students must be five years old before Sept. 1, 1997. Please bring shot record, birth certificate and social security card.

5th Annual Golf Tournament is April 19

The 5th Annual Eagle Lake Recreation Center Scholarship and Fundraiser Golf Tournament and Shoot-Out will take place Saturday, April 19. The entry fee of \$50 covers green fees and a meal of barbecue chicken for golfers. Cart rental is \$15. Additional meal tickets are available for \$5 per plate. Before the tournament, a glow-ball tournament will be held Friday night, April 18, at dark:thirty. It will be a four person scramble, 36 players only, \$20 fee and ball. Carts, not included in the night event, are \$6.50 each. For more information, call 409-234-5981; Pinto at 409-234-3870.

ELHS reunion planned for Oct.

An Eagle Lake High School class reunion is being planned for Oct. for classes of 1950-1960. If anyone knows the addresses of the following people, please call 234-3452 or 234-2937: Jo Ann Gause Leenen, Jan Pendergrass, Carole Collins Vinson, Gil Gutierrez, Jan Cheatham Berry, Wayne Brasher, Clarissa Sheppard Watkins, Larry Cervenz and Lupe Gutierrez.

Managing pasture cattle seminar is April 25

A Managing Pasture Cattle for Maximum Profit seminar will be held Friday, April 25, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the LBJ Memorial Student Center at SW Texas State University, San Marcos. There is no admission charge and a complimentary lunch will be served. For more information, call 1-800-303-3513 by April 23.

RHS cheerleaders selling T-shirts

The Rice High School (RHS) Cheerleaders are selling Raider Fan T-shirts for \$10 each. Contact RHS or any RHS cheerleader to purchase your shirts.

Sheridan benefit set for April 27

The Sheridan Ambulance Benefit will be held April 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets, by advance sales only, are \$5 per plate and will get you a chicken fried steak dinner. There will also be a silent auction and drawing. For more information, contact Traylor Walker, 234-3921 or 234-3937. (See Newsbriefs, Page 10)

Citizens vent anger over repeated flooding

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

On April 8, Eagle Lake City Council could be characterized with the word, "grievance", as Council heard citizens express concerns about home

flooding and drainage problems and also heard an employee's appeal.

Beverly Mason addressed Council concerning flooding of her father's property during the recent heavy rains.

Michael Morales, Tim and Geri Vandermark and Fred Pena addressed water problems resulting in the flooding of their homes and property twice.

"Everyone has an opinion as to who is responsible — the City, the

railroad, the neighbors. It's been weeks and we've gotten no response from the City's insurance company. If we have to, we'll go to a legal end to get an opinion," said Morales.

"If I'm responsible due to the \$5,000 worth of drainage pipe I had installed in my ditch, if the City is responsible for using the wrong type of pipe, if the railroad is responsible for not cleaning its ditches, if water is coming into our area from outside the area, we need to get the process going and find out what's making it happen and get it corrected."

"It's no fun waking up with water flowing through your residence and thinking it might happen again," said Morales.

He informed Council that the railroad has cleaned its ditch and offered 25% compensation for property damage other than the household.

Vandermark told Council he felt it was definite human error. According to Vandermark, he feels a little more secure since the City cut a trench and the railroad cleaned its property.

"Let's solve the problem and go from there," she said.

Council told the group that it will try to determine something and do everything that finances will allow to get some answers.

City Manager Ron Holland was instructed to put pressure on the insurance company for an answer and make every effort to determine where the liability for the drainage problem lies.

"If a man can't feel secure and content in his own home, then there's a problem," said Vandermark.

The second grievance listed on the night's agenda was an appeal brought to Mayor David Mann by Sgt. Jack Knox of the Eagle Lake Police Department.

Knox asked for reversal of a decision made by Holland not to award him three days of holiday time that accumulated during an administrative leave.

Based on the facts that Knox was required, during the leave, to be on call and respond to the City's pager at all (See Council, Page 7)

Strict rules set for 1997 graduation

By Lynda Appelt
Contributing Writer

The Rice CISD Board of Trustees made it emphatically clear at its Monday night meeting that it intends for nothing to interfere with the dignity of this year's graduation by adopting se-

curity procedures as outlined by High School Principal Dr. Curtis Miles.

Eagle Lake Police Chief Keith Webb will be in charge of security and will be assisted by the Colorado County Sheriff's Department.

The Board approved a letter that

will be sent to the parents of all seniors outlining the following procedures:

1) All seniors will be required to open their robes for a visual inspection prior to the processional. Anyone with contraband or who resists inspection will be expelled from the premises.

2) The high school principal, assistant principal and a deputy will be stationed in close proximity to the seniors during the ceremony.

3) Rice CISD administrators and six security officers will be stationed at strategic locations before, during and after the ceremony. The principal and security officers will utilize handheld radios.

4) If graduation is held indoors, the gym doors will be closed at 8 p.m. and no one will be allowed to enter. A police officer and staff member will be stationed at the entrance to enforce it. The wooden bleachers will be utilized only after all other seats are filled.

5) A video camera, operated by school personnel, will film the seniors during the entire ceremony.

6) Anyone who disrupts the ceremony will be expelled from the premises and may face prosecution.

7) The principal, upon consultation with the superintendent, will exercise the right to terminate the graduation ceremony at any time the dignity and proper function of the ceremony are seriously compromised.

8) Those seniors who do not wish to take part in ceremony will be allowed to pick up their diplomas the first week day following graduation.

The ceremony is to be at Raider Stadium. According to Miles, Plan B is in place to move inside at any hint of (See Board, Page 10)



Eagle Lake's new royalty

New representatives for Eagle Lake were chosen last Thursday evening, April 10, in conjunction with the Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival. Pictured above, from left, are Miss Eagle Lake Britni Wood, daughter of Mary Ann and Jim Wood of Eagle Lake; Jr. Miss Eagle Lake Jessica Thomas, daughter of Mike and Sherri Thomas of Eagle Lake; and Little Mr. Eagle Lake, Garrett Schindler, son of Roxanne and Al Schindler, also of Eagle Lake. Not pictured is Little Miss Eagle Lake, Kaylan Helm, daughter of Sheila and Bill Korenek of East Bernard. Headlight Photo by Lynda Appelt

EAGLE LAKE POLICE REPORT

The Eagle Lake Police Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending April 15.

On April 8, at 4:14 p.m., Officer Carl Risk received a call of a juvenile disturbance on Norris Street, but no police action was required.

At 7 p.m., Officer Risk met with Chief Keith Webb at the police station in regards to a domestic violence call.

Statements were obtained and Darrell Austin was arrested for family violence, processed and transported to the county detention facility where he was then released.

On April 9, at 8:03 a.m., Lt. Clem Johnson met with a complainant at the police department who reported that someone had apparently lost control of their vehicle and run through his yard sometime during the night. The vehicle was left on his property on S. Austin Road, but the driver had left the scene.

After investigating, Lt. Johnson

had the vehicle towed and stored at Delgado's Wrecker Service. The driver later showed up and the matter of damages to the property were settled between the driver and landowner.

At 8:25 p.m., Officer Risk received a call of a possible disturbance on S. Lake Avenue. After meeting with the complainant, the matter was settled and no police action was necessary.

At 9:06 p.m., Officer Risk was advised of possible family violence on State Street. Upon arrival at the residence, no one was located and there were no signs of any violence. No other action was taken.

At 6:30 a.m. on 10, Officers Brian Ochoa and Gary Gipson were advised of a suspicious person on Milam Street, but were unable to locate anyone in that area.

At 4:10 p.m., the police department received a report of a theft and Sgt. Jack Knox responded to the call. After meeting with the complainant,

the complainant decided not to prosecute and no other action was taken.

At 5:55 p.m., Chief Webb took a report of telephone harassment. No charges were filed at this time.

Sgt. Knox, at 5:26 p.m., was asked to do a civil standby on W. Main while a subject removed property from the location, all without incident.

At 9:26 p.m., Sgt. Knox was dispatched to a vehicle accident on Cat Spring Road, outside the City limits. Knox arrived and held the scene until a DPS trooper arrived.

Chief Webb and Lt. Johnson assisted with the escort of the oversized load of one of Columbus' fleet, the

Niña, through the City on April 11 at 11:30 a.m. The ship and its trailer, over 134' long and 24' wide, was travelling to Dallas.

At 9:19 p.m., Sgt. Knox was dispatched to McCarty Street in reference to a missing person. Knox was later advised that the subject had returned home.

At 11:16 p.m., Sgt. Knox investigated an abandoned vehicle on W. Main in a lane of moving traffic and had the vehicle towed and stored by Delgado's Wrecker Service.

On April 12, Officer Eric Bilbo was dispatched to a domestic problem (See Police, Page 10)



Officer of the Year

Eagle Lake Police Lt. Clem Johnson, center, was chosen Officer of the Year by the Colorado County Law Enforcement Association this past Sunday. Pictured with Johnson are, at left, Shirley Kearbey, president of CCLEA, and Chief Keith Webb, holding the letter of recommendation nominating Johnson. Kearbey is showing off the shotgun given to Johnson as a gift, while Johnson holds his plaque. (See related story, Page 10.) Headlight Photo by Lynda Appelt