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THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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To The Editor & You

Learn gang awareness

We, as citizens, have a tendency at times to blame crime spree such as theft, burglaries, malicious mischief, terrorism and threats, fighting, etc., on gang activity when sometimes it is and sometimes isn't.

One can be cognizant only when one has the knowledge.

Join the Eagle Lake Police Department and Eagle Lake Crimestoppers for a Gang Awareness Through Education (G.A.T.E.) Program on May 15 at 7 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Primary School and you will have taken the first step in becoming cognizant on a subject that could destroy your family, school and community.

Those in attendance will gain special knowledge from the nationally acclaimed Aldine I.S.D. Gang Awareness Task Force who will present the program in Spanish and English.

You will see a display of gang graffiti, artwork, clothing, symbols, etc., participate in a question and answer forum, and witness a demonstration that will give you an insight as to why schools must have certain dress codes when "it's the style". Maybe the

style originated as a "gang fashion"! According to Webster, awareness implies having knowledge of something through alertness in observing or interpreting what one sees, feels, hears, etc.

It is the intent that when you depart from the G.A.T.E. Program, you will be aware of signals that point to gang activity in your children, grandchildren, or students. Only then can you "nip it in the bud".

The gang issue is real in our area. What is even more alarming is the growing number of youngsters, even as young as primary school age, who "want to be".

No family, home, school or community is exempt from the possibility of "it happening" to them.

You owe it to yourself, your family, school, and community to attend this widely acclaimed program.

Awareness is not later having to say, "I'm sorry, I didn't know!"

Lynda Appelt, Crime Stoppers

Police Chief Keith Webb

P.S. There will be refreshments!

A 'gentlemen's agreement'

Dear Editor:

I am writing to state the fact that I have been elected to serve as a board member on Rice Consolidated I.S.D. School Board. There were no other candidates for the position so there will be no formal election. I will be representing Eagle Lake and will be filling Position One (1) vacated by Melody Grigar.

There has been some concern

about my running against Madison Smith. I am not running against Madison, I believe in the "gentlemen's agreement" that was made at the beginning of the consolidation and would do nothing to jeopardize that agreement. Madison fills Position One (1) for Garwood.

Sincerely,
Clark Powers
Eagle Lake

Beware, says Bastrop resident

Dear Editor:

I would like to share this customer alert with your readers. This is what happened to me.

On Nov. 15, 1996, I responded to newspaper and other printed advertisement. The promotion was to purchase a DirecTV DSS dish (from a supplier of your choice) and subscribe to DirecTV's "Total Choice" package for one year at a cost of \$395.06 before the end of the year and DirecTV would give you a cash back credit for service of \$200.

The "Total Choice" package was to consist of nine movie channels, 29 audio only channels and what I term 35 channels of filler/variety channels. Furthermore if you look at DirecTV sales literature the main sales feature for this package was the seven channels of movies from ENCORE.

My expenditures were \$400.51 for the DSS receiver and \$396.06 less the \$200 credit for a total of \$189.54 for the one year of "Total Choice" service to CVTV Inc. out of La Grange, the local agent for DirecTV Corp.

Less than 90 days after I subscribed to service DirecTV started airing a commercial that basically states that the ENCORE movie channels had become such a hit they were going to remove them from the "Total Choice" package and charge extra for them and if you did not call by April 10 to order them back you "would lose them all". I immediately called CVTV Inc. to inquire what was going on and why I was going to have to pay more to keep something I already had paid for a year in advance.

I was told that the ad was a little deceptive because if you had paid in advance, you would continue to receive the service until your year's prepayment was up. Furthermore, they told me the channels had been replaced with other channels, however the replacement channels are nothing but junk/filler channels. I take exception to all of this for two reasons:

1) DirecTV sales brochures states their is an ownership advantage over other service providers that lease their equipment and implies that after five years of service you will start saving money.

The cost of the equipment is \$400.51 divided by 60 months equal to \$6.67 per month. DirecTV should not be permitted to use bait and switch tactics to get you to commit to a long term relationship (created by the consumers expenditure for the equipment) then pulling out seven of nine channels, replacing them with junk, then requiring you to pay more if you want the movie channels back.

I based my purchase on this five-year figure and never would have dreamed the main feature of the "Total Choice" package would ever be removed.

2) The main sales feature for this package was the seven channels of movies from ENCORE. It is important to note the consumer cannot use this equipment with any other service provider that offers similar services.

The high cost of equipment will keep many consumers captive to DirecTV, however if this situation is not resolved I will not pay CVTV another dime. I will throw my unit in the trash

House completes its version of tax reform

In the wee hours of Saturday, April 26, the Texas House passed its version of property tax reform in a plan that would cut residential property tax bills by almost half and put more of the tax burden squarely in the lap of businesses.

Now the Senate is preparing to mold its own, though less ambitious, tax code rewrite, hoping to pump more money into public education while reducing the school tax burden on

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

homeowners. Small groups of senators held closed-door talks with Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock over tax reform.

Assuming the Senate will pass its own version, differences between the House and Senate plans must be worked out in conference committee by June 2, the last day of the legislative session.

Bullock, who presides over the Senate, says it will be a tough assignment to meet the June 2 deadline. "Will it be difficult to get everybody together on this? Of course it will be. Some people have thought (rising property taxes) was a crisis; some people have not," he said.

Sen. Teel Bivins, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said, "The House has taken dramatic action." Bivins, R-Amarillo, said however, that the Senate plan would not be the same magnitude of the House's proposal, "but it will accomplish the same goal."

Examples of the differences of the two plans are these:

•The House plan would raise \$3.8 billion in new taxes during the 1998-99 biennium. The Senate plan would raise \$1.4 billion over the period.

•The House plan would cut the average residential property tax rate for school operations from the \$1.29 per \$100 valuation that it is now to 69¢ per \$100 valuation. Sen. Kenneth Armbrister, D-Victoria, chairman of Senate Tax Committee, said the Senate plan would cut residential property rates in some parts of the state up to 26¢ per \$100 valuation.

•The Senate plan would streamline, but not end, the presently used "Robin Hood" school finance plan, in which property-poor districts receive funds from property-rich districts.

•The Senate plan would expand the state sales tax by about \$132 million, while the House has proposed sales tax increases that would raise \$1.1 billion.

Senate OKs DWI Crackdown

Legislation backed by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and approved by the Senate last week would stiffen penalties against Texans who continue to drive after their licenses have been suspended.

For those who have multiple con-
(See Highlights, Page 6)

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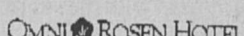
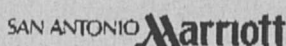
the week of May 12 through 16

There will be personnel at our office
(123 N. McCarty) to take your orders.

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Surprise Her With A
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Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

July 20, 1972

Mrs. Earl H. Rodgers presented plaques to David R. Wintermann and J.H. Clipson for raising \$550,000 in a recent fund drive for the construction of the new Eagle Lake Community Hospital...

Flintex Oil Co. announced the re-opening of the Shell Service Station on E. Main Street as a full service station. The new operators of the station will be Fred Sosa and Pete Urdiales, both of who are local men...

John S. Moore, son of Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Struss of this city, was

officially sworn into the service of the U.S. Navy on Thursday, July 6, as Midshipman in the Class of 1976 at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland...

Miss Dorothy "Maggie" Hengst became the bride of Edward Walker III on Saturday, June 24, at three o'clock in the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Schulenburg. Parents of the couple are Mr. & Mrs. Milton Hengst of Schulenburg and Mr. & Mrs. Edward Walker Jr. of Eagle Lake...

Miss Diane Kucherka and Joe

Mike Spanihel were the honorees at a barbecue supper at the Earl Rodgers' river house Friday evening, July 14...

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black of Eagle Lake announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Linda Gay, to Sigmund Paul Johnson Jr., son of Helen Johnson and Sigmund P. Johnson Sr. of Houston. The couple plan a July 29 wedding at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Eagle Lake...

Jeff Frnka, 1972 graduate of Rice High School, was complimented with a delicious steak dinner at Marvin's in Altair at eight o'clock in the evening Wednesday, July 12, by Mr. & Mrs. Carl Seaholm Jr....

Miss Kay Pilkington, bride-elect of Glenn Harbers, was the honoree at a lingerie shower in the Henry Sunderman home Monday, July 10...

Mr. & Mrs. David Wintermann were hosts for a pre-nuptial cocktail buffet at the Petroleum Club atop the Humble Building in Houston last Saturday evening honoring Miss Erme Watson and Dick Waddell, who plan to marry July 29 in Corpus Christi...

Miss Rebecca E. Launer of Houston, bride-elect of William Troy Krenke of Garwood, was honored with a bridal shower at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Stallman last Thursday, July 13...

Army Private David R. Fuller, son of Mr. & Mrs. I.W. Fuller of Sheridan, has completed the nine weeks of advanced individual training at the U.S. Army Infantry Training Center, Fort Polk, La....

Army 2nd Lieutenant Charles F.
(See 24 & 48, Page 7)

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Pepsi &
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Dr. Pepper
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through Tuesday,
May 13, 1997.

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