



Rayden Kole Cruz

Jaime and Jennifer Cruz of Columbus are pleased to announce the birth of their second child a son.

He was born October 8, 2004 at 8:08 a.m. at Rice Medical Center in Eagle Lake.

Rayden Kole weighed ten pounds, five ounces and measured twenty-two inches at birth.

He was welcomed home by a brother, Damion, 8.

Maternal grandparents are Doreen and Skip Vail of Columbus and Steve and Darlene Nelson of Altair.

Paternal grandparents are Jesus and Candy Cruz of Columbus.

Great grandparent is Jean Bryson of Columbus.

Inappropriate & Untrue

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Eagle Lake was not going to pay a fulltime salary. And, it had not been organized here outside the controlling influence of the city manager. The State Main Street Director warned me that "it would not work"—not another Main Street city ever was allowed to work outside THC's standard criteria, which produces such stumbling blocks—and the prognosis for Main Street in Eagle Lake was not good.

Innocently, I made my first appearance in the City Manager's office and begged that he firmly be committed to this 3-year program, removing his or any other controlling entities over the project, and to budget for a full time salary, even if the main street person had to write his/her grant to assist the salary. He refused me on all counts and said, "he knew more about running Eagle Lake than any trained person that the State program could provide"! Immediately, I visited with and had a splendid conversation with Mayor Michael Cooper. He said that henceforth the City Manager would not be voting as a board member of Main Street and that

he the mayor also would be ex-officio. Maybe, Main Street still had a chance?

Eric Nethery's guest editorial convoluted and mixed up remarks of the several speakers addressing Council. Though inferred by Eric to be statements by Jane Meldahl, she did not say what Eric reported and was misquoted by Nethery—just as he did with my statements. Certainly, I do not purport to speak "for everyone" as he said, and, yes, I do reside one street out of the city limits in the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) of our City, but I certainly do pay taxes, and my family certainly supports local business and a lot of fine organizations and events in town and almost every day spends a lot of money in Eagle Lake, including water and refuse collection fees.

I speak for no citizen, although I am involved with a large and growing faction who cares about our city and has acted as "watch dogs" against inefficiency and violations within the municipal government. I also have heard hundreds of complaints from citizens and businesses about the administration of our city and the ill will that is harbored by countless citizens. All you have to do is go to city council meetings, and you can see it for yourself.

Eric is wrong in making such unkind remarks against citizens who spoke on the budget after lots of homework and time given to render helpful suggestions for improving the budget. My love for Eagle Lake mandates my unyielding efforts to assist "my hometown" even earlier in helping to draft needed ordinances. The ban on new billboards passed unanimously by City Council will protect our main streets within the City Limits and highway entrances leading into town through its ETJ from the proliferation of ugly outdoor advertising signs that never go away and would clutter the gateways to Eagle Lake ultimately had such a ban not been adopted.

Nor will I back off from the inappropriate butchering of one of Eagle Lake's loveliest resources—its trees. The City Manager has seemed to want to be a power broker and protect the inappropriate cutting tactics by AEP and its less than professional contract tree cutters over citizen's wishes. We passed that ordinance not only to save our trees but also to protect the beauty of our streets and neighborhoods by

ensuring a growing, maturing legacy. Those were tenuous and difficult meetings, and actually Eric Nethery came forward—which I appreciated—and complimented my efforts to save our trees from the blight of serious oak wilt disease in our campaign to use the appropriate American National Standards Institute (ANSI) guidelines.

The ANSI criteria found in easy-to-follow four pages of information with drawings printed in Chapter 5 of the TxDOT maintenance manual details proper cutting and the correct months for major tree cutting for both the utilities and by the in-house public works department. But, you should have heard Nethery at this last council meeting, inappropriately out of order and arrogant, instruct the public works director to cut those trees regardless of the ordinance. Had there been any city acknowledgment to comply with the tree preservation ordinance there would have been no objection for a minimum of grooming at this the wrong time of the year including assurances that all wounds would be painted for protection against fungal mats and the beetles spreading oak wilt.

And, I did give my opinions to Council that Eagle Lake would be unable to recruit new light industry or business families to Eagle Lake when our infrastructure is failing and "our city looks tawdry and unappealing". I also said that our city should work to be beautiful and develop amenities such as the center of town "green" and other attractive facilities such as a better community center and an improved budget for the library. Eric pulled that statement out of context of the overall point I was trying to convey about beckoning new economic vitality and eco-tourism to our city. Some areas of East Main certainly are not inviting—not a pretty picture as you drive into town or an image that makes you proud of east Main Street as you pass broken down or boarded up cheap buildings, no landscaping, revolving flashing lighted portable signs, no design quality, transient business selling from vehicles or vacant lots, along with scores of other eyesores I will not mention by name. Just take a look yourself!

In the Oct. 12 Council meeting, Eric made the motion to leave the vacancy of Councilman Mike Morales seat open until May. Many of us in attendance believe that he wanted to

keep the seat open to control the vote with little opportunity for a vote by the new mayor, who only votes to break a tie. Eagle Lake is a Type A, General Law City, and is regulated by the Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 22, as a strong Mayor and Aldermanic type of government. The Mayor is the chief executive officer of our city and the Council should operate under the State code prescribed for a Type A, General Law City under Chapter 22. The Eagle Lake City Council has been operating Eagle Lake as a "Chapter 25 City" without a citizens referendum required by law to change to a City Manager form of government. Chapter 22 regulations have been violated for 11 years now, and citizens demand that this Council strictly adhere to governing by the Texas Local Government Code.

As an aside on the earlier Special Election, a sizable group of concerned citizens felt that Eagle Lake voters had made the choice by electing former Mayor Sid Struss, and they believed that the choice for his replacement rightly should be decided by the citizens, especially under the peculiar set of circumstances that led up to the former mayor's resignation. Eric lacked wisdom by comparing apples to oranges when he astonishingly spoke Oct. 12 saying since that group of citizens (trouble makers he was heard to say) denied Council the appointment to fill the resigned Mayor's vacancy that such citizens could just wait until the May election to fill the vacant council seat created by the Mayor's special election. The group of citizen attendees at the meeting on the 12th was completely disgusted by such tactics, especially in light that an appointment to fill a council seat vacancy is not unusual and has occurred many times before, unlike a Mayor that had just been elected. Eric's reasoning and statements reflected poor judgment and immature vindictiveness.

Lastly, I will complete my rebuttal to Nethery by disagreeing with his figures showing a surplus of \$357,199.54. When a credible group of us studied the 60-page budget prior to Tuesday's budget vote, two with accounting capabilities and experience considering all account figures, showed a budget deficit of \$31,000. Mr. Nethery knows how to be pompous, he would go a lot further with all the frustrated townspeople if he

opened his eyes to see the real problems strangling and sucking the life's blood potential from our beloved Eagle Lake. He should be supporting and listening to the sincere citizens who are trying to assist the council to stave off a very real and impending crisis.

It was wrapped up succinctly by the public works director revelations on Oct. 12 during staff reports that his equipment must have \$30,000 in repairs. Surely, these failures and needs were recognized by that staff during budget mark up and revisions? Is there some reason we just heard of this problem? Possibly, Mr. Nethery next will deny there could be a deficit budget of \$61,000? Citizens, who care about good city government, thank you for reading my long letter.

Evangeline Loessin Whorton, a longtime resident of Eagle Lake. 19 October, 2004

Work Together

Continued from Page 2

husband was going to do a natural reaction being an auctioneer and yell "SOLD"! I hope the mayor can find some other means of getting our attention as I find the gavel very offensive.

The mayor asked some very good questions at council. He seems concerned and wants to know more about his job. He urges everyone to talk to him about issues that concern them.

I attended Sealy's City Council the next night. They are dealing with some of the same problems that concern us. They did appear all to be on the same page without all the friction even when they had questions about an issue.

The big point of this article is to ask the council to get back on track of putting Eagle Lake's future first and take their differences outside. This is a time when we should all be working together and on the same page. I urge council to take time to know the history of items and to get other people's opinions about issues. The audience usually has a wealth of information of most of the topics discussed—sometimes much more than the council members themselves. Use that knowledge for the betterment of Eagle Lake.

In closing, I would like to thank the wonderful person who cleaned the "garden". It was an awesome job and one that overwhelmed me at the moment. I know how much work was involved cleaning it and I simply cannot find the words to thank you enough!

Candy McCreary

24 & 48

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Henry Alvarado made the only score for the Eagles in the loss to Angleton 46-6. After many penalties the Eagles got a first down with Alvarado going over on the third try...

Mrs. F.M. Dromgoole honored her children, **Fulton Jr. and Myra Ann**, with parties on succeeding weekends at their country home. On Sept. 22, Myra Ann was six years old and she was honored at a party. On Sept. 29, Fulton Jr., was honored on his ninth birthday...

Victor Ray Corman, son of Mr. & Mrs. V.R. Corman of Lissie showed the championship pen of three Brahman-breeder type calves at the Wharton County Fair...

Funeral services were held at the Columbus Funeral Home for **Dempsey Hovington**, who passed away at Garwood after a brief illness.

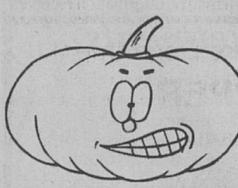
Big John's 2nd Annual Halloween Bash

Sat. Oct. 30th, 2004
8:00 P.M. till 1:00 A.M.
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DJ JAMMIN' J WILL BE SPINNING ALL OF YOUR FAVORITES, ALL PROCEEDS BENEFITTING THE PARISH OF THE NATIVITY BUILDING FUND!

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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Thursday - Friday - Saturday Nights

5:00 p.m - 6:30 p.m.

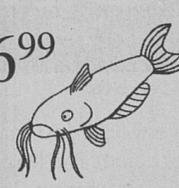
Hamburger Steak \$6⁹⁹ • Fried Catfish \$6⁹⁹

Hawaiian Chicken \$6⁹⁹

All of the above entrees include:
Fries or Mashed Potatoes & Soup or Salad

2 Beef Enchiladas \$6⁴⁹
with Rice & Beans and Chips & Hot Sauce






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Attend the Church of Your Choice...

EQUIPPERS OUTREACH FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL: 200 N. College, Weimar, Texas 78962; 979-725-8233; Pastor Jerry Adkins.

GREATER RISING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH: 580 Old Altair Road, Eagle Lake; Rev. Truman Scott Sr., Pastor; 234-2423 or 758-3745.

GREATER UNION BAPTIST CHURCH: Matthews Community, Co. Rd. 141; Rev. Lawrence C. Robertson, Pastor; 234-2581.

MT. CARMEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwy. 90-A (Pecan Valley), Eagle Lake; 234-5813.

LIVING HOPE CHURCH: Eagle Lake; Revs. Joe and Mercy Fling; 234-5536.

BEREA CLADIC: 623 Maple Avenue, Eagle Lake; 234-2130.

ROCK ISLAND FULL GOSPEL: P.O. Box 232, Rock Island; 234-5840.

LATIN-AMERICAN ASSEMBLY OF GOD (Bethlehem of Judea Church): 1000 East E. Eagle Lake; Ruth Olvera, Pastor.

CHRISTIAN CITY FELLOWSHIP: 1140 Meyer, Sealy; Rusty Griffin, Pastor.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST APOSTOLISTIC REVIVAL RISING STAR: FM 102 South, Matthews; 4 p.m. (at Mt. Zion), Rev. R.L. Carter Sr.

GREATER NEW FAITH CHURCH: 6406 Guyler, Wallis; Rev. Clay Spears, Pastor; 979-478-2169.

EAST BERNARD FIRST BAPTIST FIRST BAPTIST: 527 N. Lake, Eagle Lake; Rev. Chris Thacker, Pastor; 234-2571.

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST: 405 S. Lake, Eagle Lake; Rev. T.L. Baines Sr., 234-5795.

IGLESIA BAUTISTA GETSEMANI: 901 B Street, Eagle Lake; Rev. Mario Vasquez.

GREATER MT. OLIVE BAPTIST: Rev. Thomas Kuykendall; 705 Lake, Eagle Lake; 234-3545.

WRIGHT GROVE BAPTIST: Rev. T.J. Cunningham Jr.; Altair.

PROVIDENCE BAPTIST: 1207 Seaholm, Eagle Lake; Rev. Coby Shorter Jr., 234-3735.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH: 306 E. Stockbridge, Eagle Lake, 234-3437.

ROCK ISLAND BAPTIST: Bob Allison, Pastor.

SHERIDAN FIRST BAPTIST: FM 2437; Rev. Mack Helms, Pastor; 234-3136.

SOUTH POINT MISSIONARY BAPTIST: Hwy. 71 North, Vox Populi; Rev. Dave Curry; 758-3039.

WHITE CLOUD BAPTIST CHURCH: 202 Old Altair Road, Eagle Lake; Rev. Obie Rhodes, Pastor; 234-3800.

CHURCH OF CHRIST: Sheridan.

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP: Hwy. 90A, Sheridan; Del Sanford, Pastor; 234-3276.

CHRIST OUR REDEEMER-Charismatic: Jerry C. McKinney, Pastor; 979-478-7534 or 478-6512.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH: East Bernard.

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE NATIVITY: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sanctuary; 308 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; 8 a.m. (Español), 10 a.m. (English), Rev. Eddie Winkler, P.O. Box 307; 234-2842.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH: Box 97, Nada; Rev. Joseph Koebel; 758-3218.

GRACE LUTHERAN: 408 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; Services begin at 10 a.m.; Rev. Clements Richard, Pastor; 234-3381.

LEHRER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST: Garwood; 9 a.m. worship.

LISIE UNITED METHODIST: Ken Jones, Pastor; 234-2112, Lissie.

ROCK ISLAND METHODIST: Ken Sells Jr. Lay-Pastor.

UNITED METHODIST: 200 W. Prairie; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: 106 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; 234-3368.

VINE OF THE LORD: 1300 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; Rev. Paul Aguilar, Pastor; 234-7543.

CrossRoad ASSEMBLY OF GOD: 510 Wallace, East Bernard; Pastor George Kutach; 979-335-7706.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 600 W. St., Sealy; Marshall Crosby, Branch Pres.

CHURCH OF CHRIST: 815 Milam, Columbus; Lynn Wilson, Minister.

THE SHEPHERD'S WAY: Interdenomination Christian Fellowship; 1225 Eagle Lake Road, Sealy, Frank Lucas, Pastor; 979-885-1225.

Happy 8th Birthday
Derrick Jermaine Shávon McAfee
Oct. 18th, 2004
Love,
Mom, Sister,
Aunts, Uncles,
Grandma and Grandpa
We Love You!



Bible Verse of The Week

"Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." — Matthew 4:17

Submitted by Nedly Phillips

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