



1982 Rice Raider Varsity Football Team

## Coach Darden 'satisfied'

Discussing the pre-season, Rice High football coach Clifton Darden felt the defensive secondary needs quite a bit of work, "but I'm pretty much satisfied with what I've seen," he said.

"We have to work on our timing, especially on our passing attack. I feel we are a bit off on timing. Otherwise, we are as ready as we can be."

Darden said he watched

El Campo (Raiders' first foe in the regular season) scrimmage Tomball. "They were aggressive and quick, not very big physically, but quick and powerful. They hit real hard. It seemed to

me they are a well-drilled team," said Darden. He plans to use his basic game plan in the season opener, running their attack and passing as he sees fit. But he does not have a specific plan. "We're ready

as can be at this early part of the season."

The Rice High School Raiders open their regular varsity football season against El Campo, September 3 at 7:30 p.m. in El Campo.

## Stiles votes no 22.5% county tax revenue increase up for approval

Colorado County Commissioners' Court proposed a 22.5 percent tax revenue increase for the county during an emergency meeting and work session at the county courthouse last Friday at 10 a.m. Court also announced it will hold a public hearing concerning the revenue increase on September 9 at 7 p.m.

"The county and its commissioners have been very fiscally conservative in the past, and unfortunately it has come to the point that an increase of this magnitude is now necessary," said County Judge Lester Cranek.

Commissioners have expressed a need for an increase of 32.5 percent for road and bridge fund allocation, which accounts for part of the proposed increase. Last year, \$1,098,236 was allocated to the road and bridge fund, and this year's proposed total is \$1,455,170.

"I recently spoke to the local rotary club," said the county judge, "and reminded them of how maintenance costs have increased in the recent past. Diesel

has increased in price four times, road oil for paving increased four to five times, pre-mix (also for paving) from Uvalde has gone up four times, and so on, with other items, such as replacement parts.

"Employees also will need a wage increase in order to prevent them from going to the private sector for higher wage jobs," he said. The wage increase is for county employees, and includes a five percent increase for satisfactory job performance (based on supervisors' evaluations) and an additional, contractually agreed, cost-of-living increase of five percent.

Judge Cranek said: "Almost all of the 34 divisions that depend on us for funds are asking for increased budgetary consideration." He cited libraries, commissioners, health offices, administrative offices, sheriff, extension services, and produced budget proposals from each. "They are finding it difficult to provide their services effectively, and express a need for more funds."

"In the past, the court

has not raised tax revenues more than the acceptable (by state law) three percent increase, but in retrospect, perhaps they, we, should have. I can't help but think that if we had raised tax revenues by about seven to nine percent in the past three years we wouldn't have the need to raise them as much as we need to now. But we have always been a bit fiscally conservative."

Judge Cranek also pointed out that of the \$3,176,424 in total projected expenditures for 1983, \$1,753,000 will be raised from taxes, and the rest (about \$275,000) from fines, (about \$350,000) from license plate purchases, (about \$134,000) from revenue sharing, and other items specified in the budget.

The county judge and commissioners urge the public to attend a public hearing on September 9 at 7 p.m. in the county courthouse for a detailed explanation of the proposed tax revenue increase.

## Finney's body in Houston for autopsy

In what police have termed a "possible suicide," the badly decomposed body of Robert Lee Finney, Jr., 31, of Eagle Lake, was discovered by his father, Robert Finney, Sr., at 7 p.m. Monday, in space number six of Dan's Mini Warehouse on Post Office street.

Laura Finney, mother of the deceased, said "His father feels like he lost a son in Vietnam." She said he had drug problems "since he returned. He seemed to be doing well after a while, but then he went down to Louisiana

and got started again."

Finney was born on June 2, 1951 in El Paso, Texas, and moved to Missouri with his parents, at six weeks of age. After a year, the family returned to Texas. Robert, Jr. attended schools in Eagle Lake and Richmond before graduating from Eagle Lake High School in 1968-69. He then joined the Army and served 14 months in Vietnam. He married Penny Sowell and worked in Houston as an apprentice carpenter after the war. The couple divorced in 1981, and he returned to

Eagle Lake in October of 1981.

"A lot of his problems stemmed from his days in Vietnam. He was a late war victim," said his sister Ada.

He was admitted to San Antonio State Hospital on August 3 of this year, complaining of depression and in need of detoxification. But he "released himself" from the facility. "It's terrible how by state law, hospitals just let people with problems leave if they want," said Mrs. Finney.

Finney was last seen on

the afternoon of August 24. He had rented a storage

space at Dan's Mini Warehouse, where he kept his furniture. His parents intended to check on his

furniture and put in a new lock, when Robert Finney, Sr., discovered his son's body.

According to Justice of the Peace M. M. Jones of Eagle Lake, the body was taken to Ben Taub Hospital - Harris County Medical Examiner for an autopsy. Positive identification has been made, but cause of

death will not be known for about two weeks.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, September 1, at 3 p.m. at the Mill Bauer Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Lakeside Cemetery.

## Juveniles keep city police busy

A local juvenile was served with an arrest warrant for burglary, two other juveniles were apprehended after stealing a truck, and still another is being sought in San Antonio after running away from his home in Eagle Lake, according to police reports.

**Arrest warrant**  
A juvenile resident of Eagle Lake was served with an arrest warrant on Monday, August 16, for the burglary of about \$100 from a green Ford pickup in the parking lot of Robert's Place, 612 A Street, sometime during

the night of August 15, according to police.

The truck is owned by Robert Hicks, proprietor of Robert's Place. Police records indicate the case was solved with the help of an eyewitness.

**Juveniles in custody**

Johnny D. Havel of Hallettsville reported, on August 27, at 4:15 p.m., that a juvenile had stolen his 1970 Ford Ranger from his 1970 Ford Ranger from the Southern Pacific Railroad yard on F.M. 102 South.

The subject, along with a friend, drove away from the scene and into a

dead-end street. They jumped out and started to run, but Havel, in pursuit, caught one of them and detained him. The other ran into a rice field off of F.M. 102 and was later apprehended by officers Lupe Villarreal and Albert Martin.

Both juveniles were served their rights and turned over to County Unit 53, officer Wied, of the Sheriff's office.

**Runaway**

Socorro Cano of Eagle Lake reported in person to officer Guadalupe Villarreal last Friday that her

son had run away with another boy to San Antonio. She indicated an address she believed he may have gone to, and local police notified the Sheriff's office in San Antonio, instructing them to hold the child until the Canos are notified.

**Hubcaps**  
The theft of four hubcaps from a 1981 bronze Ford pickup was reported by Olivia Maxie of Eagle Lake on August 25 at 8:50 a.m. She told police the truck had been parked at the hospital parking lot on Austin Road while she was at work during the night. Total loss is estimated at \$100.

**Arson**

On Sunday, August 22, at 5 p.m., officer Munoz noticed smoke coming from behind Kevin Court Apartments on Austin Road. Upon investigation he found a vehicle on fire and called the fire department. The vehicle was taken to Delgado Wrecker yard.

Officer Martin, formerly an arson investigator, checked on the vehicle the next morning and found some wires had been shorted out.

**Wallet stolen**  
Officer Villarreal received a call Monday, August 23 at 4:54 p.m. from N. C. Townsend of Sheridan, reporting the theft of his wallet from his auto, which was parked inside a fenced area of the Wintermann Dryer on Se-helm Street.

Townsend was playing baseball when the offense took place. About \$10 and identification were stolen.



Fund raiser prize

Jimmy Wood, center, looks over the top prize in this year's fund raiser for the Rice Belt chapter of Ducks Unlimited. At left is Johnny Meitzen of Johnny's Sports Shop, chapter supporter, and at

right is Harold Lloyd Williams, of Lake Motors where the prize, a 1982 4-wheel drive Blazer, was purchased. Wood is chapter president and area chairman.

## Fund raiser begins for Ducks Unlimited

A 1982 4-Wheel Drive Blazer is the top prize this year in the annual Rice Belt chapter of Ducks Unlimited fund raiser, according to Johnny Meitzen, chapter supporter.

Tickets are on sale for the blazer, and five other major prizes, with winners to be drawn at the annual dinner on October 6 at the

Providence City Hotel near El Campo.

"We are only selling 350 tickets this year," Meitzen said Tuesday, and each ticket costs \$100.

But for the \$100 donation, each buyer has the opportunity to win any of the prizes. "This year when we draw for a prize, that ticket then goes back

into the barrel to have another chance at the blazer or any of the remaining prizes. The blazer was purchased

through Harold Lloyd Williams at Lake Motors. Other prizes include a Rolex watch; boat, motor and trailer; Honda 110 3-wheeler; Winchester 12 gauge O/U shotgun, and a Model 70 featherweight rifle.

The stag dinner will feature other door prizes available to those who attend the dinner. Proceeds raised support Ducks Unlimited projects. Rice Belt chapter membership is centered in the Eagle Lake, Garwood, El Campo area, but includes members from across the state.

and Bishop Hugo M. Gerbermann, M.M., and all the parishioners of St. Mary's invite everyone to the festival.

## St. Mary's Festival Sunday

St. Mary's Church of Nada will have its Parish Festival and Homecoming on Sunday, September 5th at the nearby K.J.T. Hall. Barbecued beef, sausage and all the trimmings will be served for dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be refreshments, recreation and entertainment for young and old during day and night. The Country Fair and Auction Sale are planned at 2 p.m. with music to be provided throughout the day. The

dance is scheduled from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. in the K.J.T. Hall with music by the Country Playboys. Many valuable prizes will be given away during the event.

Masses for the weekend will be said at 5 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Sunday. Msgr. Victor G. Schmidtznaky

Community Hospital in stable condition with lacerations of the neck.

## Garwood home 'totally gutted'

Eagle Lake volunteer firefighters tended to five fires during the past week, including serving as a back-up to Garwood firemen as they battled a blaze that gutted the home of Raymond Staff about two miles northwest of Garwood at 10:30 a.m. Monday.

According to Garwood fire department president Richard Seifert, the fire started apparently while Staff was trying to light the gas flame of his water heater. Gas-fueled flames ignited the floor and walls and the fire was soon out of control.

"We salvaged, a few items, but the household was totally lost," said Seifert. Eagle Lake was called to the scene at 11:15, but were sent back when Garwood firemen

had the blaze under control at 11:45 a.m.

On August 27, a trash fire was reported at 518 Norris Street on Payne property. The fire department was notified at 12:30 p.m.

A grass fire of unknown origin was reported at 3:15 p.m. last Saturday about five miles east of Ramsey

on F.M. 102 north.

At 3:40 p.m. that same afternoon, trash burning was reported apparently out of control at Rice Courts on 90A West.

A pickup caught fire after a wreck and was extinguished by Eagle Lake firefighters, last Sunday at 4:14 a.m., on 90A toward Rock Island.

## Ant bait still available

Colorado County Precinct 4 Commissioner Bill Stiles reported Tuesday that the Amdro fire ant bait is still available with no limit at \$1.00 per pound.

The ant bait may be obtained at the Precinct 4 barn directly behind the

old American Legion swimming pool in Eagle Lake from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays while the supply lasts.

Payment for the Amdro must be by check, payable to Colorado County.

## Houston man dies in wreck on 90A

A Houston man was killed and another injured

29, about five miles west of Altair.

The deceased, Luis Hernandez of Houston, 32, was an air conditioning serviceman. He was pronounced dead at 4:40 a.m. by

Justice of the Peace W. A. Hefner of Garwood. He was buried in the Houston National Cemetery.

Injured was Pedro Es-