



Rodney Williams
named conference
player of the week

Rodney Williams, sophomore defensive end for Texas A&I University, was named the Lone Star Conference Defensive Player of the Week. Texas A&I is ranked number one in NCAA Division II.

Williams, 6'3", 260 pound ex-linebacker, played a lead role as the A&I defense beat the Eastern New Mexico 30-7, which placed the Javs not only in number one position nationally but into first place in the LSC. During the game, Williams had eight tackles including three for losses that totaled 16 yards; two of those were quarterback sacks giving the Javs a record six sacks for the game.

A native of Eagle Lake, Williams graduated from Rice High School.

Activities planned at United Methodist Church

There will be several special programs and activities at the United Methodist Church during the Advent and Christmas season.

On Sunday, December 13 the Children's Christmas program will be held during the morning worship service at 10:55 a.m.

On Sunday, December 20 the choir will host an hour of caroling and fellowship beginning at 6 p.m.

Dr. Raymond Thomas in family practice program

One of the most frequently made statements about medicine is, "We need more good family doctors." To meet this need, the Texas Legislature has instituted programs to train family doctors. Currently, there are 21 community-based family practice residency programs throughout the state training family doctors.

To get doctors interested was through the development of another

statewide program, the preceptorship program. Volunteer members of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians from across the state are carefully selected to take part in this program.

One such preceptor is Raymond Thomas, M.D., a local family doctor. Dr. Thomas worked with Steven Novak, a fourth year medical student from The University of Texas, Houston. Mr. Novak spent an entire month in Dr. Thomas' practice here observing what it is like to be a family doctor.

The Texas Academy of Family Physicians is dedicated to the cornerstone of the healing arts, family medicine. It is the largest medical specialty society in Texas. The objectives and purposes of the Academy are: (1) to promote and maintain high standards of family practice in medicine and surgery; (2) to encourage and assist young men and women in preparing, qualifying, and establishing themselves in family practice; (3) to advance medical science, private and public health, and to preserve the patient's right to free choice of physician; (4) to assure that family physicians can engage in medical and surgical procedures for which they are qualified by training and experience; (5) to assist in providing continuing education for family physicians; and (6) to acknowledge and assume responsible public advocacy in all health-related matters.

Happy Holidays To One and All!

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Youth rodeo membership drive underway

The Texas Youth Rodeo Association is accepting memberships for the new 1988 rodeo season and hopes to expand its membership to include contestants from a broader area of Texas this season. TYRA sponsored twenty rodeos in 1987 beginning in April and ending with the finals in August.

Rodeos in 1987 were held in Calallen, Raymondville, Charlotte, Sinton, Laredo, Bay City, Refugio, Angleton, George West, Alvin (2), Mercedes, Alice, Robstown, Wharton, Edinburg, Kingsville, Cuero, Freer and Port Lavaca. Points were accumulated during the season on contestants and the top 25 contestants in each event competed in the finals rodeo which was held in August in

Kingsville. The prizes given in excess of \$65,000.

TYRA has been in existence for over 10 years and is governed by a board of directors. TYRA is open to unmarried boys and girls up to age 18 (must be age as of September 1 before the season begins). School standing cards must be filled out twice a year to insure that the contestant is maintaining a scholastic standard in elementary or high school. The corresponding secretary is Betty Nevilles, P.O. Drawer 1218, Kingsville, Texas 78644-1218.

Events to participate in include: sub-junior figure eight barrels, junior poles, senior poles, junior cloverleaf barrels, senior cloverleaf barrels, barrel race, bronc riding, tie-down calf roping, breakaway roping, girls breakaway roping, senior ribbons, junior ribbons, junior tie-down calf roping, junior figure eight barrels, junior steer riding, bull riding, steer wrestling, goat tying and team roping.

Dues for TYRA are \$30 per year and each rodeo has entry fees. The TYRA secretary maintains a mailing list and newsletters are sent out periodically as well as entry forms from all the rodeos. The secretary keeps a current computer printout on points. TYRA tries to promote family participation and good sportsmanship. It brings together families from all over the state as well as income for the towns sponsoring the rodeos.

About town...

Jose Ugarte Sr., father of Dr. Jose Ugarte, is recovering nicely from surgery recently and should be able to come home in about a week. A speedy and complete recovery is wished for him.

Santa Claus will be here Saturday! Don't forget to make plans to see the beautiful Christmas parade that will be held prior to Santa's visit. See story on front page.

Register for the \$1,000 gift certificate at any participating Chamber member store. The winner will be picked at 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 21.



Top junior exhibitor

Lauren Waddell and her horse, Don Jaheem, took top junior exhibitor honors at the Lufkin Fall Fun Festival, which was held November 20-22. She is the daughter of Richard and Ernie Waddell of El Campo and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Waddell of Eagle Lake. Lauren and Don also placed in the top five in the native costume division of the Region IX Championship Show, sponsored by the International Arabian Horse Association, held in June, 1987 in Dallas.

Lucille Perry named assistant city manager

El Campo man new city manager; airport land sale delayed again

The new city manager for Eagle Lake will be Jack Swanson, 39, currently Superintendent of Utilities for the City of El Campo.

That appointment was made Tuesday night by Eagle Lake City Council. In the same move, council agreed to promote Lucille Perry to assistant city manager, and to work out a salary increase for her.

At the last regular council meeting, November 24, council learned unexpectedly that the city again would have to delay completion of its deal to sell airport property in order to raise funds for runway improvements.

Other matters covered in recent meetings include hearing plans to begin making corrections in the city's sewer plant and its aged sewerage piping system. The recommendation includes a healthy increase in water and sewer charges so the city will have the money, according to the city engineer, to spend on improvements that should have been completed already.

Also, Ms. Perry said the city's plan to begin fluoridating the drinking water supply, which has been in the

works for more than a year, should be completed next year. "You can get by only so long with paint" maintenance, he told council.

Included in his recommendations are electrical changes affecting pumps which move liquids within the plant. Cleanliness at the plant also was a problem, and the city staff needs to institute a sludge management program with education and training.

Finally, he also suggested the city spend up to \$15,000 a year to find and repair sewer pipe leaks to raw water — which does not need treatment — flowing into the system is kept to a minimum.

To finance the work he recommended a 15 to 20 percent increase in the water and sewer rate. That not only would cover these expenses, but also would cover near-future water system maintenance costs, and begin creating a utility department fund balance. That would make money available when — not if — immediate repairs are needed.

The average water customer's bill would increase about \$3 or \$4 a

month, Mercer said. He recommended the action be taken immediately; he did suggest the new city manager do a rate study to make exact rate recommendations, but by no means should the increase be delayed until April.

Council will consider the recommendations.

City Manager to start January 15

In the last two weeks council has met twice to interview four of the six candidates it had picked as finalists for the job, including Ms. Perry, acting city manager.

Monday night council asked consultant Bill Langford to contact Swanson, to see if terms could be reached on hiring him. He agreed to begin work at \$30,000 a year; if council would consider increasing that to \$31,000 in six months if his job performance was adequate. Former city manager Robert Klockman's salary was just short of \$28,000. Langford said Swanson asked for the appointment to be effective Jan. 15 because of the holidays and council agreed.

He and his wife Rebecca have a son age 7 and a daughter age 3.

After councilman Larry Dulaney made the motion to hire Swanson, and it was seconded by Jose Duncan, councilman Mike Duarte asked Dulaney to amend it.

He suggested that Ms. Perry be given additional responsibilities as assistant city manager. She has been loyal to the city, Duarte said. "I feel she's done a great job for the city at a time when we were behind." Duarte and Duncan agreed to include the promotion in their motion, and agreed a salary will be worked out in the future. The motion received a unanimous vote. As city secretary, Ms. Perry was receiving almost \$17,000 a year. Council also will have to make a decision on who will then serve as city secretary as it appears an assistant city manager cannot hold that job as well.

In other business, council:

- Delayed further discussion of an airport operating contract as a representative of Gulf South Aeromotive was not at the meeting. At the November 24 meeting, Phillip